

Joel in 1982

## Brazil, Costa Rica advance

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Roger Flores and Horacio Medford scored Wednesday night, 1982, a 2-1 victory over Sweden and clinching their team's spot in the second round of the World Cup. Costa Rica, making its third appearance in a World Cup, became the first team to come from behind to win a game in the 1982 tournament. Costa Rica had trailed 2-0 at the start of the second half, but Flores and Medford scored to send the Central Americans on to the second round. Costa Rica finished second in Group C with four points, while Sweden finished last after losing all three of its games and was eliminated from the tournament. In the other Group C match played simultaneously Wednesday night, Brazil defeated Scotland 1-0 in Turin. That gave Brazil six points and first place in Group C, while Scotland finished in third place with two points. "This team has never stopped working and it has achieved exactly what it deserved," said Costa Rica coach, Boris Milutinovic, a Yugoslav who coached Mexico at the 1986 World Cup. "This is a fine group that gives its all." Swedish coach Olof Norlunda was stunned by the upset. "We tried to win, but we failed," he said.

Volume 15 Number 4422

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 21-22, DHUL QAIDAH 27-28, 1410

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## Assad, Hirawi hold talks

BEIRUT (R) — President Elias Hirawi Wednesday paid a surprise visit to Damascus and held talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, official sources said. The sources gave no details of the talks. The Syrian-Lebanese summit, the third since Hirawi was elected last November, coincided with peace initiatives by France and the Vatican to end four months of inter-Christian battles and Lebanon's 15 years of civil war (see page 2).

## Turkey: Date of water talks uncertain

ANKARA (R) — Tripartite talks on sharing the waters of Turkey's southeastern rivers which supply Iraq and Syria may be postponed from June to August, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. The issue has been a bone of contention between Turkey and its two downstream neighbours since Ankara diverted the vital waters of the Euphrates river for one month in January to fill the new Ataturk dam. Turkey had invited irrigation ministers from Iraq and Syria to Ankara to attend technical talks on the waters on June 26-27 but Syria had not accepted the dates yet, spokesman Murat Sungur said. Iraq has said it will attend. "Syria said their minister's programme was full on the June dates and proposed July 9, which is unsuitable for (Turkish Minister of Public Works Celal) Altinkaya. We have proposed an alternative date of Aug. 9," Sungur said. Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharif had inconclusive talks with his Turkish counterpart Ali Bozer in Ankara last week in which the water problem was prominent.

## Blank destroys Falange party office

BEIRUT (R) — A bomb destroyed Christian offices in the Lebanese village of Bikfaya, overnight, security sources said Wednesday. They said no one was hurt when the explosion ripped through the offices of the Falange party in the village, controlled by army units loyal to General Michel Aoun. The bombed offices were used by a few party members who back Aoun in his four-month-old war against the Lebanese Forces (LF) militia, the sources said. The leadership of the Falange supports the LF in its battle for control of Lebanon's Christian enclave.

## Soviets seek return of latest hijacker

HELSINKI (AP) — The Soviet embassy has demanded the return of a hijacker who forced a domestic Soviet flight carrying 60 people to land in Helsinki, Finland officials said Wednesday. Oleg Kuzov, 20, seized the twin-jet aircraft Tuesday during a flight from the Latvian capital of Riga to Murmansk and asked for political asylum after it landed, officials said. All 55 passengers and five crew members returned to the Soviet Union on the twin-jet Tu-134 after being released unharmed. Finnish Foreign Ministry spokesman Jaakko Blomberg said the Soviet extradition request "was in accordance with the Finnish-Soviet agreement to prevent hijackings. No reply will be given to Soviet authorities until the matter of his application for political asylum has been completely cleared up."

## Ezer Weizman sues Jerusalem Post

TEL AVIV (R) — Former cabinet minister Ezer Weizman has brought a \$6 million libel suit in New York against the Jerusalem Post for reporting he would be tried for illegal PLO contacts, an Israeli newspaper said Wednesday. "I am not denying it," Weizman told Reuters. The daily *Ha'aretz* quoted him as saying he filed the suit in New York because the article, published in January, damaged his reputation in the United States. Rightist Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir pushed Weizman, a Labour Party maverick, out of the policy-making inner cabinet last December after charging him with meeting officials of the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Parliamentarians are immune from prosecution.

## Gorbachev under pressure to quit

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet political hardliners Yegor Ligachev denounced President Mikhail Gorbachev Wednesday and suggested he should relinquish the planned and growing work of anti-socialist forces to weaken and ultimately destroy from within the Communist Party and the Socialist Union of Republics.

Ligachev, speaking at a communist conference marked by angry attacks on Gorbachev, accused the president of taking key economic and foreign policy decisions without consulting top party bodies.

A split in the party, which has ruled the Soviet Union since 1917, was now inevitable, he said.

TASS news agency said Ligachev, "clearly alluding to joint tenancy of the posts of party general secretary and president of the USSR," declared: "One cannot head the party, this leading force, without dedicating all one's time to it..."

The attack on 59-year-old Gorbachev came 12 days before a crucial party congress which could decide the future of communism in the Soviet Union and Gorbachev's political fate.

## U.S. breaks dialogue with PLO, sets terms

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama (Agencies) — The United States has suspended its 18-month dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation because of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's refusal to condemn a guerrilla attack on Israel, President George Bush announced Wednesday.

"Based on the recommendation of the secretary of state, I have decided to suspend the dialogue between the United States and the PLO pending a satisfactory response from the PLO of steps it is taking to resolve problems associated with the recent acts of terrorism," Bush said at a news conference during a one-day visit to Alabama and North Carolina.

In Tunis, the PLO said the U.S. decision was a provocation and it would ask Arab states to impose economic sanctions on the United States.

Jamil Hilal, director of the PLO's information department in Tunis, told Reuters: "It's an unfriendly and provocative act. It will be seen as a blow to the peace process."

He said: "(the decision) will encourage (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir's cabinet to use more repression in the occupied territories and commit acts of aggression against other Arab states."

"It is a provocation to all Arab states, especially after the Baghdad summit (in May). We will call on Arab states to implement the Baghdad summit resolutions, including economic sanctions against the United States."

Honecker denies sheltering guerrillas

EAST BERLIN (R) — Disgraced former East German Communist leader Erich Honecker Wednesday denied having given shelter to West German urban guerrillas sought for murder and bombings.

In a rare statement issued through his lawyer, Honecker, 77, said he learned through the media that eight suspected members of the Red Army Faction (RAF) had been living in East Germany, protected by the former Stasi security police.

The eight, hunted by Bonn for more than a decade on suspicion of killing top businessmen, bankers and civil servants and attacking U.S. troops, have been arrested in the last two weeks in Germany.

"I strongly protest against the suspicion raised publicly that I supported terrorism. None of these accusations are true," Honecker said.

## PLO leader warns of rise in extremism, stresses peace step

THE AMERICAN decision to break Washington's dialogue with the PLO will fuel violence and extremism in the Middle East, but the PLO leadership remains committed to its peace strategy, a senior Palestinian leader said Wednesday.

"We regret the American decision, which does not serve U.S. interests or the cause of peace," said Salah Khalaf, deputy to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in the Fatah movement in a statement to the Jordan Times and Al Ra's. "It will further Israel's extremist position and help the Israeli government to carry out aggression on the Arab Nation," he said.

"We hold the U.S. responsible for the escalation of violence and extremism which will sweep the region as a result of its decision," said Khalaf.

However, he added, "the PLO leadership will remain committed to its peace strategy and initiative and will pursue every means to achieve peace in the region in cooperation with the Arab countries."

The PLO will continue to hold to its peace initiative and do its utmost to mobilise world opinion. The intifada (uprising) in the occupied territories will continue with greater intensity because we have no other alternative," he added.

The PLO's 15-man Executive Committee was to meet in Baghdad Wednesday night or Thursday to discuss the U.S. decision.

Bush said in Huntsville the United States felt Palestinian participation was vital to a Middle East peace agreement but set conditions for resuming a U.S.-PLO dialogue.

Mainly, he said, the PLO must condemn a May 30 assault by one of its factions against Israeli beaches and also discipline the alleged leader of that raid, Mohammad Abas (Abu

(Continued on page 2)

## Mandela arrives to hero's welcome in U.S.

NEW YORK (AP) — Nelson Mandela, a freedom fighter who became one of the world's most celebrated political prisoners, arrived Wednesday in the United States looking for money and moral support for his battle against apartheid.

Mandela's plane touched down at John F. Kennedy International Airport at 11:30 a.m. (1500 GMT), his first stop on a 12-day, eight-city U.S. tour.

Greeting Mandela on the tarmac were his daughter Zenani, the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Mayor David Dinkins, New York Governor Mario Cuomo, New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio, and hundreds of supporters and well-wishers.

The presence of Nelson Mandela generates hope around the world," Jackson said prior to Mandela's arrival. "Just as the walls came down in Berlin, they should come down in South Africa as well."

Mandela's arrival in New York was pushed back nearly two hours because organisers said the 71-year-old leader needed more

time to rest. Mandela had been in Canada on his worldwide fund-raising trip.

rest.

Mandela is in the midst of a 14-nation tour of Africa, Europe and North America that began June 6 — one day after he was discharged from a Johannesburg hospital after surgery to remove a cyst from his bladder.

A hero's welcome was in store for the deputy president of the African National Congress (ANC). Among Wednesday's activities were a ticker-tape parade through New York's concrete canyons to city hall, where Dinkins was to present the key to the city.

A speech to a Brooklyn high school was changed to a drive past the school because of his delayed arrival. On Thursday he is to address a rally at Yankee Stadium.

Along with the festivities celebrating the end of Mandela's 27-year imprisonment in South Africa will be meetings with business, religious and political leaders.

## Jordan gets \$55m in cash and oil as aid from Kuwait

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Jordan has received

\$55 million in financial aid from Kuwait, raising the total amount received in Arab assistance in 1990 to \$165 million, and the Kingdom is confident that the total Arab assistance for this year would be over \$300 million, a senior official said Wednesday.

"We have received from Kuwait \$25 million in cash and \$30 million in oil and oil products," said the official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity.

It is the first installment of a total Kuwaiti aid of \$75 million in cash and \$60 million in oil and oil products for this year in response to Jordan's call for support made at the Arab summit held in Baghdad last month, the official said. Kuwait will transfer the remainder of its pledge before the end of the year, he added.

"From the beginning of this year, we have received confirmed Arab pledges of \$270 million in cash and kind and we have actually received \$165 million," said the official. "We hope that Saudi Arabia will send us (its contribution of financial support) very soon," he added.

A break-up of the amount received by Jordan so far this year

showed that \$60 million came from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in two payments — one of \$20 million received in April and \$40 million last week — \$25 million from Iraq (which has pledged \$50 million), \$20 million from Qatar (which paid two installments of \$10 million each), and \$5 million from Oman in addition to the Kuwaiti grant, which was received Monday.

Part of the assistance was in compliance with promises made last year, according to the official. "We are confident that the total Arab assistance for this year will exceed \$300 million," he said without giving any specifics on expected aid from Saudi Arabia, the only Arab country which fulfilled its pledge of financial support for Jordan at the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit. The duration of the pledge expired in 1988.

However, Jordan received at least \$200 million in additional Saudi assistance last year, but Riyadh has not indicated the aid level for this year.

Following a strongly-worded warning by His Majesty King Hussein to last month's Arab summit that Jordan on its own was no longer able to maintain its defence capabilities against Israel, Prince Sand Al Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, said that

his country "will not abandon Jordan." The summit's final communiqué said Arab countries would extend financial support to Jordan but left it to bilateral arrangements to determine the volume and nature of assistance.

The Jordanian official noted that the national budget for 1990 projects Arab aid of \$360 million "which will help us arrive at a balanced budget." Now that signs are strong of higher receipts than envisaged, the Kingdom's immediate fiscal problems could be alleviated considerably, he added.

By the end of the year, he added, the official said the government was studying a recent report on Jordan issued by Amnesty International which welcomed the Kingdom's moves towards protecting human rights. "The report contains many positive points," the official said. "We are studying it," he added, raising the prospect that the Kingdom might respond to the report.

The official said he expected the Lower House of Parliament to complete its review of the draft of a new defence law forwarded to it by the government as substitute for the 1935 defence law by the end of this month. "The government's commitment (made

(Continued on page 2)

## Palestinians strike to mark 'black Sunday'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip

staged a general strike Wednesday, marking a month's passing since the massacre of eight Palestinians by a lone Israeli gunman outside Tel Aviv.

"We will never forget the heroes of black Sunday," said a slogan painted in green on a wall along the main street of Gaza City. It referred to the victims of the May 20 attack and was signed by the fundamentalist movement Hamas.

The murders in the Tel Aviv suburb of Rishon Letzion set off a spate of protests in which 18 Palestinians were killed, most in army gunfire. Two Israelis also were slain in revenge attacks.

In Gaza, only a few hundred Palestinian workers left their homes to go to jobs in Israel, according to Arab reports. The victims in the Rishon Letzion killings were all Gaza labourers waiting for day jobs in Israel.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, two Palestinian youths in the Wad Al Tufah quarter stopped cars that were on roads in defiance of strike orders and fined the drivers 20 shekels (\$10).

Witnesses said the youths were handing out receipts for the fines on forms signed by the United Nations Leadership of the Uprising. Soldiers came in a commando car and arrested the two youths, the witnesses said.

Lenoci met with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan

Turning to the large-scale influx of Soviet Jews into Israel, Lenoci said: "Italy had announced that Jewish emigration would complicate the problem and delay the peaceful resolution in the region, but we do not have any solution to the emigration."

The general strike was called

trip.

"This is a very serious move against an Arab intifada. This lit up a red light for all of us," said Shafik, a father of six who lives in the northern village of Deir Hanna and works for a bus company in nearby Nazareth.

Police claimed after Shafik's arrest last week that in a collection of poems entitled "Return to the Future," he calls for the continuation of the uprising and appeals to Arabs to use firearms.

One of the 150 delegates who proposed the settlement resolution, Hillel Shoval, told Reuters it had been intended as a warning to Israel that the Jewish state might not receive the full backing of world Jewry if it continued with "irresponsible" policies.

A final vote was postponed until after Shafik's speech when the council chairman announced the resolution had been withdrawn. Sources in the delegation proposing the resolution said they had withdrawn it to avoid further divisive argument.

WZO members, traditional supporters of Israel, are being asked to foot much of the bill for settling up to one million Soviet Jews in the next five years. WZO has an international membership of 1.2 million.

## Uzbekistan declares sovereignty

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Central Asian republic of Uzbekistan Wednesday approved a "declaration of sovereignty," TASS news agency said, in another challenge to President Mikhail Gorbachev's authority.

The document, passed at the first meeting of a new parliament in the capital Tashkent, declared the supremacy of Uzbekistan laws in the republic and placed all issues of domestic and foreign policy under the authority of the local government, TASS said.

"The declaration proclaims Uzbekistan's state sovereignty and the supremacy of republic laws on its entire territory," TASS said.

The official news agency said the document declared "sovereignty of the Uzbek Socialist Republic within a renewed Soviet federation" but did not amount to secession from the Soviet Union.

With the declaration Uzbekistan, scene of repeated outbreaks of ethnic violence in the last year, joined the three Baltic republics and Russia in declaring its laws hold sway over those of Moscow.

Lithuania has gone the farthest, declaring on March 11 that it was no longer part of the Soviet Union. Its sister Baltic republic, Latvia and Estonia, have declared in favour of a transition to independence.

The parliament in the southern republic of Georgia also defied the Kremlin Wednesday by approving a declaration recognising the Baltic republics' right of self-determination.

It expressed Georgia's

readiness to establish direct economic and political ties with Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, a spokesman for the Georgian news agency Gruzinform said. Moscow has imposed an economic blockade against Lithuania.

Gorbachev originally took a hard line on the Baltic moves for independence, but recently softened slightly, saying he will hold talks with the Lithuanians if they suspend their declaration for the duration of the discussions.

He also stopped short of condemning outright the Russian sovereignty declaration. He said he favours a new federated union of republics and asked his advisers to draw up related proposals.



## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Princess Sarvath opens exhibition

AMMAN (Petra) — Depicting for Her Majesty Queen Zein Al-Sultan Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Wednesday opened the annual flowers exhibition of the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) at hotel Jordan Intercontinental. The exhibition aims at highlighting the artistic talents in arranging flowers, whether artificial or natural. The proceeds of the exhibition will benefit several of the association's projects.

### Health centre opened in Sarith

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Ministry Secretary-General Adnan Abbas Tuesday inaugurated a comprehensive health centre in Sarith in Irbid governorate. The centre will be run by the Health Ministry in cooperation with Jordan University of Science and Technology, in accordance with an agreement concluded between them. The inauguration ceremony was attended by Minister of Public Works Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, Irbid Governor Jawdat Al Shabani, director of Irbid Police Department and several mayors and heads of village councils in the governorate. Also attending were health ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council member states.

### ACC ministerial committee to meet Sept. 8

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) ministerial committee, which groups prime ministers of Jordan, Iraq, Yemen and Egypt, holds a meeting here on Sept. 8 to discuss a number of issues designed to consolidate cooperation and coordination among the four ACC member states. The committee will also prepare an agenda for the next ACC summit, scheduled for Oct. 15.

### PSD director returns from Iraq

AMMAN (Petra) — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major General Fadel Ali Fheid returned home Wednesday after a five-day official visit to Iraq. Fheid said he had held talks with the Iraqi interior minister and the director general of the police department on promoting and bolstering cooperation between security departments in Jordan and Iraq. He added that the talks were fruitful.

### UNESCO official delivers lecture

IRBID (Petra) — Representative of the United Nations Educational and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Director-General in the Arab countries, Dr. Mohammad Ibrahim Kathem delivered a lecture at Yarmouk University Wednesday on the "Arab Efforts to Eradicate Illiteracy." Kathem underlined the importance of education in developing the society. He said changes and developments in the world and the creation of new blocs makes it inevitable for the Arab World to do its best in preparation for the coming future. Kathem reviewed efforts being done in the past decades in combating illiteracy in the Arab World and said that illiteracy was curbed to 60 per cent in 1990 from 81 per cent in 1960.

### 4,675 people found jobs in 1990

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Service Commission (CSC) has announced that 46,371 persons have applied for jobs in 1990. Only 4,675 were employed according to CSC Public Affairs and Information Department director. The CSC, which was established as an independent department in the 1955, undertakes the process of filling posts in government departments.

### North Shuneh spa to be leased

NORTH SHUNEH (Petra) — North Shuneh Municipality signed a contract with a local firm by which the firm will rent Wadi Al-Arab health spa project for a five-year period for JD 50,000 annually. The municipality's acting mayor said the project would provide the municipality with a constant income which can help it pay its financial commitments. Wadi Al-Arab health spa project was completed by the municipality recently.

### 12 killed, 247 injured in road accidents

AMMAN (J.T.) — 12 citizens were killed and 247 others were injured in road accidents which occurred in Jordan between June 9 and 16, 1990, according to the Public Security Department (PSD). It said that most of the 396 accidents in that week occurred in the Amman area and most of the accidents were due to reckless driving.

### Father admits killing daughter

IRBID (J.T.) — Police in the northern Mazzeh area in the Irbid governorate have discovered a crime 75 days after it was committed. The victim was a 16-year-old village girl whose body was found in a cave on the Samad-Aljoun road. The girl's father, whose name was withheld by the police, admitted to killing his daughter and led the police to the cave, according to a report in Al-Dustour daily Tuesday. The police did not reveal the cause for the murder, but referred the girl's father to trial.

### Fire exchanged over boar hunting

AMMAN (R) — A Jordanian farmer shot at a wild pig near the Israeli border and an Israeli patrol fired back, but there were no casualties, an official source said in Amman on Wednesday. Military sources in Jerusalem said earlier the patrol opened fire on Tuesday after hearing two shots from Jordanian territory opposite the Jordan Valley town of Beit She'an. "There was no infiltration attempt, just a farmer shooting at a wild pig," the Jordanian source said.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sharra, Mohammad Amin and Hani Khanjeh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- Exhibition entitled "La révolution: 200 ans après" at the French Cultural Centre.
- Exhibition of Ottoman textiles at Abdul Hamid Shems Foundation.
- Exhibition of orientalist paintings by two German orientalists at the Goethe Institute — open 9-12 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.
- Exhibition by Rafiq Al Lahham at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### CENTRE CULTUREL FRANÇAIS AMMAN

#### FRENCH CULTURAL CENTRE

#### FRENCH LANGUAGE COURSES

Registration is now open at the French Cultural Centre for the following language courses:

#### COURSES FOR CHILDREN - ALL LEVELS (MORNING)

- From Sunday 24 June till Saturday 4 August 1990.
- On Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 8 a.m. till 12 noon.
- Duration of each lesson: One hour.
- A film festival for children will take place during the period.

#### INTENSIVE COURSES FOR ADULTS - ALL LEVELS (AFTERNOON)

- From Sunday 24 June till Saturday 4 August 1990.
- On Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday from 3 p.m. till 7 p.m.
- Duration of each lesson: Two hours.

For more information, please contact the French Cultural Centre Tel: 637089 - 636445 - Amman.

## CBJ eases export procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Wednesday announced the cancellation of a bank guarantee which was required from Jordanian exporters, ensuring the return of the bank of revenues from national exports.

The announcement said that the guarantee, which was normally submitted to the CBJ within three months from the date of export, will be no more needed as of July 1, 1990.

The CBJ imposed the measure on all exporters in July 1988 requiring them to submit a bank guarantee worth at least 10 per cent of the total value of the exported goods so as to ensure the return of the revenues to the Kingdom within one month, and later extended to three months.

The move was in harmony with the CBJ's plan to stimulate the national economy in the light of the current stability of the value of the Jordanian dinar against foreign currencies and in view of the stable foreign currency exchange market in Jordan, the announcement said.

It said that the CBJ took this step to emphasise its earlier steps that aimed to restore confidence in the Kingdom's monetary policies.

The announcement projected the CBJ's expectation that the step will further encourage national exports which form an important source of foreign currency revenues for the Kingdom.

The CBJ also believes that the new move is bound to remove any lingering administrative obstacles in the way of exports since it will reduce the Jordanian exporters' financial burdens and speed up export procedures.

### Magician performance to benefit SOS children

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of the SOS Day, for celebrating the birthday of the founder of the SOS Children's Villages Hermann Gmeiner, the SOS Children's Village Association of Jordan in cooperation with the Royal Cultural Centre and Luftansa will be presenting the great magician Fred Maro, whose entertaining magical programmes have become well known internationally.

Even though he is considered as one of the best magical entertainers in the world, the Austrian born Fred Maro, who discovered his fascination for magic at an early age, does not look like a magician to the people who see him and meet him. He looks like a relaxed businessman. But, when he is on stage, Fred Maro surprises his spectators with his magical skills and show techniques and puts them all in a breathtaking atmosphere.

The very special style of Fred Maro is that he uses for his magic tricks every-day objects and he includes his audience into his work, but definitely without declaring to them the know-how.

Working very close to his audience had given him another advantage over all other magicians and made a big difference between his magic and theirs.

Fred Maro presented more than 1,000 stage shows and more than 100 T.V. shows worldwide. He had also won several prizes at international magic competitions.

He will be performing one show only in Amman at the Royal Cultural Centre on June 21st, and all proceeds will go to the SOS Children's Village in Amman that takes care of orphaned and abandoned children in a family-like atmosphere.

## Queen Noor visits development project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al-Hussein Wednesday visited the Zarqa River basin development project where she inspected progress of work and the completed stages.

After listening to a briefing, the Queen underlined the importance of this project and said she was impressed with the achievement. The Queen also paid tribute to those involved in efforts to protect the soil and natural resources.

Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Al-Arabi explained that the project was designed to preserve the soil, prevent erosion and pave the way for the plantation of fruit and forest trees and create pasture lands.

The soil preservation scheme, the minister said, is bound to reduce the amount of soil accumulation behind the King Talal Dam, hence boosting its storage capacity.

The project, according to Araby, extends across five governorates: Amman, Irbid, Balqa, Zarqa and Mafraq, stretching over 850,000 dunums of land inhabited by some 170,000 citizens grouped into 5,700 farming households.

The project is being carried out by the CBJ to stimulate the national economy in the light of the current stability of the value of the Jordanian dinar against foreign currencies and in view of the stable foreign currency exchange market in Jordan, the announcement said.

It said that the CBJ took this step to emphasise its earlier steps that aimed to restore confidence in the Kingdom's monetary policies.

The announcement projected the CBJ's expectation that the step will further encourage national exports which form an important source of foreign currency revenues for the Kingdom.

The CBJ also believes that the new move is bound to remove any lingering administrative obstacles in the way of exports since it will reduce the Jordanian exporters' financial burdens and speed up export procedures.

## Rafiq Al Lahham displays art work

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of 130 works of art by the renowned Jordanian artist Rafiq Al Lahham has been extended until Saturday June 23. The exhibition, which was opened under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on June 9, has been extended three times obviously due to the growing number of visitors to the exhibition together with a group of Jordanian artists organised at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman.

On display are works depicting Arabic calligraphy, etching and abstract art, representing the first of the artist's 40 years of relentless, skillful endeavours in art work.

Lahham, who studied art in the Syrian capital, in Rome and New York, serves as assistant

### 36 American students to study Arabic at Yarmouk U.

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 36 students from American Universities have enrolled at Yarmouk University's language centre to study Arabic this summer. The centre's Director Khalaf Makhzoumi said that students in the two-month courses will take Arabic language courses, tour archaeological sites in Jordan and attend lectures on Arab affairs.

### ACC health ministries lay down medicine code

AMMAN (Petra) — The health ministers of the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), who concluded a meeting in Amman Tuesday evening, decided that their countries should carry out a collective purchase of their needs of medicines from foreign sources and that priority should be given to purchases of medicine produced in any ACC state, according to Health Minister Mohammad Al-Zaben.

The four countries will pass special legislation in this matter with regard to the registration of pharmaceutical products produced in the ACC group, the minister told a press conference here Wednesday.

He said that the health ministers decided to lay down a medicine code for the ACC countries and to conduct a feasibility study to set up an industry to manufacture primary components for the drug industry.

According to Zaben, the four countries decided to create five committees. One of these, he said, will shoulder health legislation and regulations with a view to unifying them, the second will assume the task of organising the treatment of ACC citizens in any member country, the third will assume the responsibility of developing human resources involved in health services, the fourth will be charged with matters related to drug affairs while the fifth committee will be in charge of unifying specifications for food commodities and primary components for food industries.

It is too much of a coincidence, Kawar told the Jordan Times. "The blast at my plant follows another similar explosion at another plant owned by my partner in the same area about two weeks back," he said. "It was the same type of explosion and in the same part of the machinery; in the steam accumulator."

The dead man was identified as Rashed Al-Rousan, 25, a technician who was making a routine check of the machinery, according to first reports.

Kawar refused to make any comment on his suspicions, except that "I am determined to get to the bottom of this case."

The police spokesman said that investigations were continuing, particularly since the plant was insured.



**KING VISITS ARMY UNIT:** His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Wednesday paid a field trip to the Fourth Royal Armoured Division where he was received by its commander and several

officers. After a briefing on the division's duties His Majesty toured several division formations and units and watched exercises with live ammunition.

## Telephone exchange fault repaired

AMMAN (Petra) — A technical fault in the central telephone exchange Wednesday morning caused a two-and-a-half hour disruption of telephone communications in some parts of central Amman, according to the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC).

TCC Director-General Mohammad Shahed Ismail said in a statement that the fault in the computerised system was described by a technician from the manufacturing company as rare and was promptly repaired.

Subscribers whose telephone numbers begin with the digits 62 and 63 were affected by the disruption, according to Ismail. He said that since its installation in 1982 the highly efficient exchange

witnessed only one other failure.

Ismail apologised to the subscribers for any inconvenience the disruption might have caused.

## Arab anti-drug society formed

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday announced his consent to become president of a pan-Arab society designed to spread awareness among Arab citizens against the use of dangerous drugs, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The society, which was registered with the Ministry of Social Development in Jordan last month, said it will work out proper plans and programmes designed to protect the Arab region from drugs in cooperation with official and private organisations and will conduct research work on the effects of drugs on people.

The society, which groups prominent personalities from Jordan and other Arab states, is concerned with the problem of drugs, drug addiction and the spread of drugs among members of the Arab society.

The announcement said that the society will organise seminars and launch intensive campaigns to spread awareness against drugs and will try to benefit from experience in advanced countries in this field.

Furthermore it said that it would set up a specialised centre to provide treatment for drug addicts and hoped that it would be able to establish the centre in Amman.

The society came into being following a recommendation by an Arab interior ministers council meeting which requested Arab states to spread awareness among the youth against the use of drugs.

The society, which groups academics and specialists, will have a board of trustees which will supervise the society's activities.

## Moscow firm in its stand on Israel

By Odeh Odeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Soviet Ambassador to Jordan Yuri Garadov has reiterated Moscow's warning to Israel that it would reconsider the emigration of Soviet Jews if the Jewish state went ahead with plans to settle them in the occupied Arab lands.

"I can only repeat President Mikhail Gorbachev's statement that this could happen if Israel persisted in its present plans," the ambassador said in a statement to the Jordan Times following an Arab-Soviet seminar held in Amman Tuesday.

Garadov, who took part in the seminar along with prominent Jordanian politicians, did not give further details.

The ambassador said that Moscow rejects any attempt to cancel a United Nations General Assembly resolution in 1975 equating Zionism with racism. He said that the Soviet Union had been instrumental in passing that resolution and can by no means go back on it simply because there is not a single reason for cancelling the resolution.

Garadov voiced his concern that there can be no going back from this firm Soviet policy," he said, and added that Moscow has been urging the American leaders to stop their support for Israel and to take a more realistic and wiser position with regard to the Palestine question.

Asked about a report about a Soviet artistic troupe's visit to the occupied Arab lands to provide entertainment to Israeli troops, the ambassador stressed that there was no truth in that report.

## JORDANIAN SENIOR ECONOMIC ADVISOR

EXTENSION OF DEADLINE: USAID is seeking highly qualified Jordanian candidates for the position of Senior Economic Advisor, to serve as senior economic liaison, counsel and analyst. The position requires the ability to integrate rigorous economic analysis with contextual expertise; synthesize and present analyses in a manner digestible by non-economists; take the initiative to make recommendations and see that they are followed through and implemented; and supervise senior-level consultants in all phases of economic analysis, report preparation and presentation.

The successful candidate will have demonstrated exceptional economic expertise, gained through a graduate degree from a recognised University in an economics programme of impeccable credentials, followed by a minimum of three years of experience in senior-level economic analysis and policy formulation. Preference will be given to candidates that have successfully completed all examinations and coursework preliminary to award of a Ph.D. in economics. Absolute fluency is expected in both English and Arabic, oral and written. Salary quite competitive, based on experience, qualifications and prior earnings history.

Please contact USAID, Executive Office, Personnel, Tel. 604171 for additional details concerning duties and minimum qualifications. Resumes, with references, and a two-page summary economic analytical writing sample, in English should be submitted no later than June 24, 1990, to the following address:

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation.

Established 1975

جريدة ترجمة عربية مطبوعة باللغة العربية من المؤسسة العربية للطباعة

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Faximile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

## An American gift to Shamir?

FINALLY, the U.S. has gone ahead and broken its 18-month-old dialogue with the PLO, dealing a severe blow to hopes that Washington would sooner or later come to terms with the reality that it cannot hope to push the Palestinians any further to the wall. The American decision to break the dialogue (for whatever the restricted Tunis contacts were worth) plays right into the hands of the new extremist government of Yitzhak Shamir in Israel not only because extremism will be bred and fuelled on both sides of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the absence of any movement towards peace in the Middle East, but also the stage will be set for Shamir and Company to exploit rising tensions and implement their plans.

We were hoping against that the U.S. administration had realised and appreciated within itself that the PLO was and is indeed serious in its quest for a just settlement of the Palestinian problem and had gone far enough in making concessions but gaining virtually very little in return. Notwithstanding the fact that the terms the U.S. has set for resumption of the dialogue are no different from the demands that Washington made on the PLO leadership earlier, it is clear that it will be practically almost impossible for the PLO to meet them even half way, given the mood of militancy and extremism that would be generated among the Palestinian constituency by the break in dialogue.

Words of warning from PLO as well as Arab leaders that any American move to break the dialogue would lead to extremism and violence of the same kind that brought about Wednesday's decision appear to have fallen on deaf ears in Washington. The American decision-makers have only themselves to blame if their ill-advised step is seen not only as a slap on the face of moderates in the region but also as a gift to Shamir's new government.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I criticised the United States for depriving the Jews of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe of their human rights and their free choice to settle in Western Europe, Canada or the United States as most have been wishing. The paper said that West had launched a hostile campaign against the Soviet Union over the past 40 years of the cold war accusing it of depriving the Jews of their human rights, and now that Moscow relented, the United States is forcing the Jews to travel to Israel and the occupied Arab territories and not a destination of their own choice, said the paper. This is a violation of the human rights which were advocated by the West all along, said the paper. Moscow, the paper added, has now offered the Jews their right to emigrate and proved to the world that it respects the rights of all citizens, but unfortunately it is now faced with a two-fold dilemma: that of witnessing the Jews being forcibly settled on occupied Arab lands, and Zionist-American blackmail. The paper called on the Western European nations to help put an end to this forced emigration and stop the settlement of Jews in occupied Arab territories and homes.

AL DUSTOUR lauded the European Community and the European Parliament for their staunch support for the rights of the Palestinians in their homeland. In its latest statements about the Middle East, the 12-nation group announced its condemnation of Israel's practices, its settlement of Jews in Arab lands and continued occupation; and announced measures to absorb agricultural exports from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, said the paper. Perhaps the most significant move come in the European Community's call on the United States to exercise pressure on Israel to stop its practices, the paper noted. The Arabs view this call as a very positive stand, and await positive reaction from Washington and the U.S. administration, said the paper. If the Bush administration has real intentions for achieving peace, the paper added, it ought to move closer to the European view and exercise meaningful pressure on the Shamir government which is now leading the Middle East towards war.

SAWI AL SHAAB described Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's pledge to come to the defence of any Arab state exposed to foreign aggression as a source of pride for all Arabs. The president made the statement in the face of open threats to Iraq by Israel and the West, and responded objectively and positively to the needs of Jordan, which has been warning the Arabs of an imminent aggression by Israel that is now trying to expand at the expense of the Arab Nation, the paper said. Despite its losses in the eight-year war with Iran, and regardless of its heavy domestic responsibilities, Iraq is manifesting clear determination to deter any enemy aggression on Jordan, Syria or any other Arab country, the paper said. It said that the world Zionism has now understood the message, and will think hard before embarking on new adventures.

## Iliescu — democrat or dictator in the making?

By Alison Smale  
The Associated Press

BUCHAREST, Romania — President-elect Ion Iliescu's decision to use miners to impose mob rule in Bucharest last week raises a crucial question: Is he the democrat he says he is, or a dictator in the making?

The 60-year-old former Communist, due to be inaugurated this week, dented his image at home and abroad with his tough tactics and raised doubts about his political abilities.

Iliescu seems increasingly to take a hard line covered with only a veneer of liberalism.

The signals of his government are contradictory, as illustrated by its action last week in the two chambers of Parliament, dominated by Iliescu's National Salvation Front.

The chamber of deputies voted overwhelmingly to give "the forces of law and order" authority to clear anti-Communist demonstrators from a central square.

At virtually the same time, the Senate voted to appoint an all-party commission to investigate last week's violence, when police brutally ended a 53-day protest at the same square.

Yet Iliescu not only summoned

but thanked the miners. Drawing

on stock phrases learned in de-

cades of Communist Party ser-

vices, he alienated the West further by suggesting the revolt had outside support.

The unanswered questions about Iliescu's policies since December are ample fodder for various theories.

Does the use of the miners rather than soldiers or police to restore order mean Iliescu does not command army or police loyalty? Was he facing an organised revolt? Or was unrest provoked by the Front in order to crack down on opposition?

Diplomats and knowledgeable Romanians believe that at least some of the army, which traditionally has played an important role in politics, is not with Iliescu.

"The army is in love with its image," said a Western diplomat, arguing the military wanted no part in breaking up the anti-government demonstration or dealing with the aftermath.

Defence Minister Victor Stanulescu was at a Warsaw Pact meeting when an influential group pressing for more democracy in the army was ordered dissolved. A purge may follow.

Last week, Iliescu said he was moving control of the police to the defence ministry and thinking about establishing a national guard.

If the guard proved an efficient, impartial anti-riot squad, it could help police, who clearly have little idea how to control crowds without shooting.

But Dima Patriu, a leader of the opposition Liberal Party, and Stefan Donas, a leading intellectual, said the guard could become a tool for oppression.

Iliescu says miners have already volunteered to join.

Romanians speak of growing signs of surveillance similar to the Securitate, the now-disbanded secret police force under Ceausescu.

Doinas suspects ex-Securitate men and others who lost out in the revolution are stirring unrest "to prove that there will be no quiet in our country as long as they are not returned to their positions."

Iliescu, according to this view, is either unable or unwilling to control the ex-Ceausescu forces.

For the opposition, another test of Iliescu's commitment to democracy will be the reappearance of the liberal daily Romania Libera and three other publications the miners shut down.

Iliescu came to power with virtual universal support from Romanians relieved to be rid of Ceausescu.



## Old spy network — goldmine or time bomb?

By Mark Fritz  
The Associated Press

EAST BERLIN — Erich Mielke ran his secret empire from a musty, dimly lit office in a huge complex of buildings on the outskirts of East Berlin.

When he was forced to give up his post as chief of the East German secret police, he left behind an empty safe, a new paper shredder, and a poorly rendered painting of the Berlin Wall.

Thousands of others are unemployed and drawing jobless benefits or pensions.

Many former East German agents were believed to have been recruited both by Soviet and Western intelligence agencies after the pro-democracy revolt.

Hans Gert Lange, a spokesman for West German counter-intelligence agency, said there was a vast army of secret police and six million clandestine files, a seemingly bottomless well of information ranging from the mundane to the potentially explosive.

His organisation no longer exists. Mielke, 82, is hospitalised and reported suffering from senility. The new government is trying to decide what to do with the employees, the buildings and the millions of files.

To many East Germans, the files are pandora's box. To Western intelligence agencies, they are a potential gold mine of information about the former government's espionage activities abroad, and its reputed role in training or harbouring international terrorists.

Central Intelligence Agency

"They are very important," said George Carver, a former CIA station chief in Bonn, West Germany. "The East Germans ran a very efficient police state and had one of the best intelligence services in the world," he said in a recent telephone interview.

East German authorities have been accused of working for the secret police, and two prominent politicians resigned earlier this year amid the allegations.

Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere has denied similar accusations that he was a secret police informant.

Albrecht Daner, a former member of the citizens' committee, said virtually all 400 parliament members have looked at their Stasi files.

Many East Germans have intense hatred for the sprawling network that followed, bugged, intimidated, interrogated and often imprisoned dissidents.

A Stasi file from last year on an East German environmental group includes detailed lists of meetings, members and even the name of the pastor of the church where it met.

It refers to the group's "hostile and negative activities."

Ex-CIA man Carver said East Germany should conduct a case-by-case analysis of the Stasi files and remove any elected official who was found to have collaborated.

Eberhard Schultz, a foreign policy specialist for the German Society for Foreign Politics, a Bonn-based think tank, said it would be dangerous to rely on the files.

## West divided over economic aid to support Gorbachev

By Stephen Jukes  
Reuter

LONDON — The Western world is battling time and major policy disputes to devise a plan to rescue the Soviet economy before Mikhail Gorbachev's reformist plans collapse for lack of outside help and strident opposition at home.

With less than three weeks before leaders of the seven biggest industrial democracies meet in Texas for their annual summit, policymakers have so far been unable to agree on even the broad outlines of a comprehensive aid package.

Their fears that the Soviet economy could collapse, weakening Gorbachev's grip on power and jeopardising a new era of detente, have in the past few days injected a new sense of urgency into the West's discussions.

But deep-seated differences are surfacing between the United States and Western Europe and the debate is further complicated not only by superpower politics but also by a fundamental question — will large-scale financial aid actually help Moscow?

Some economists say a move to mobilise financial aid now being discussed in some Western capitals could send the wrong signals to Moscow and instead of backing reform might in fact

delay a sorely needed switch to a market economy.

The suggestion that foreign financial aid now is going to be useful seems to be misguided," said Professor Richard Portes, director of the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London.

"It might in fact be counterproductive in helping put off what some in the Soviet Union regard as the evil day of serious economic reform and structural change."

European Community foreign ministers indicated Monday that aid for the Soviet Union would be tackled on the agenda of next week's EC summit in Dublin while the issue is likely to dominate July 9-11 talks of major industrial nations in Houston.

The most direct call for action has come from French President Francois Mitterrand, who, in a newspaper interview published Tuesday, signalled he wanted both summits to consider a large aid programme for Gorbachev.

Mitterrand warned of grave international repercussions if the Soviet leader failed to hold the country together.

"I intend to ask the forthcoming summits in Duhlin and Houston to consider financial, commercial and technical aid for the USSR," he told the daily newspaper Le Monde.

Economists say leaders must

first agree whether the Soviet Union qualifies for support by meeting the same conditions imposed on East European nations such as Poland and Hungary in their transition from central planning to free markets.

Only then can they go on to debate the form that help should take. The crucial issue is whether it should be limited to technical assistance or extend to direct financial aid.

According to conditions spelled out at a meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris last month, nations in Eastern and central Europe must be seriously engaged in political and economic reforms.

A decision by EC foreign ministers Monday to delay approval of a trade pact with Romania, citing "indiscriminate use of force" by Bucharest in putting down demonstrations, was a clear sign that those conditions are being enforced.

France and West Germany — which has been urging help for Moscow in what is seen as a quid-pro-quo to ease its drive for unification with East Germany — are now openly saying that Gorbachev does meet the conditions and warrant support.

These nations argue that last week's rejection by the Soviet parliament of a half-hearted

economic reform package proposed by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov has increased chances for a more comprehensive move towards the free market later this year. New proposals are due to be submitted by Sept. 1.

But that view is by no means unanimous in the EC and Washington has been cool to an aid package during preparations for the Houston summit of the "Group of Seven" industrial nations — the United States, Canada, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Japan.

President George Bush heavily criticised by the Democrat opposition for his unexpected decision to sign a trade pact at the Washington summit with Gorbachev at the turn of the month.

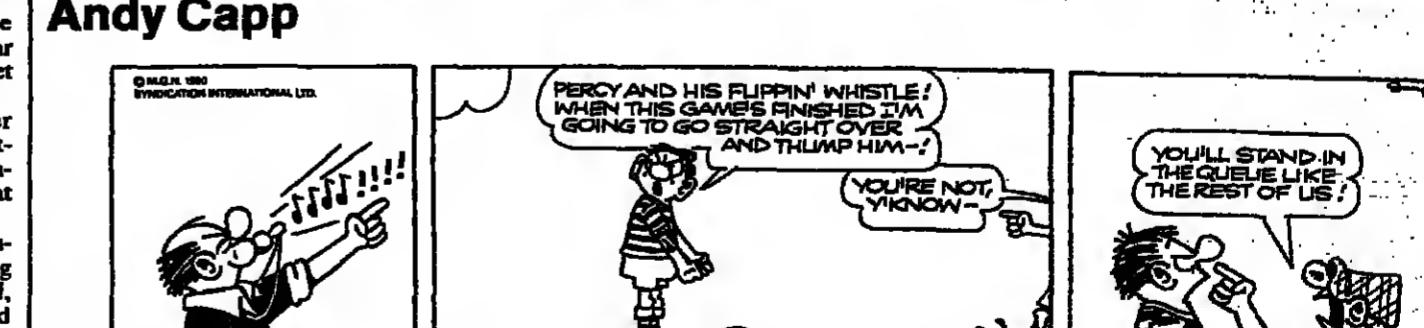
Moscow's economic blockade of Lithuania and delay in passing liberalised emigration laws could yet halt the pact's passage through Congress and economists believe Bush has little to gain politically by agreeing to a Soviet aid package in Houston.

Economists say the lowest common denominator would be for leaders to agree to extend to the Soviet Union the responsibility of the "Group of 24" Western aid donors which have been helping Eastern Europe since last year.

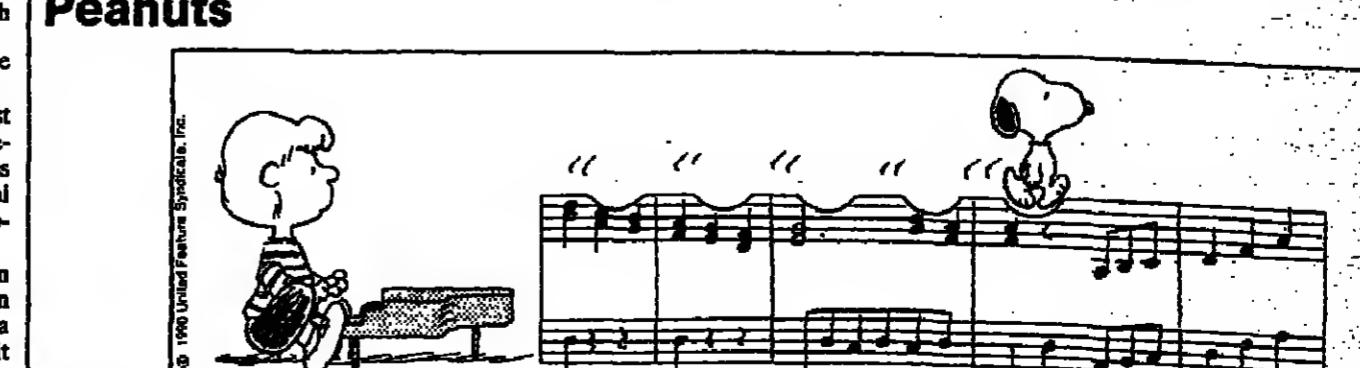
## Mutt'n Jeff



## Andy Capp



## Peanuts



dr. in his

# Jordan Times

## WEEKENDER

Published Every Thursday

June 21, 1990 A

### Jerash Festival 1990 — a decade of culture

By P. V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The benefit of a decade of experience and matured organising abilities are the two main features that will highlight this year's Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts which opens in the ancient city next month, says the head of the committee which puts together the annual cultural extravaganza.

"We now know what it takes to organise the event and present it to the public, whether Jordanian or foreign," according to Dr. Akrar Masa'weh, director-general of the organising committee of the festival, which has assumed the centre-stage of Jordanian cultural activities since 1981.

"We are entering the 10th year of the festival fortified with the maturing of the organisational process of the event and the benefit of experience over the years," Masa'weh says.

Although Jerash Festival 1990 is scaled down in terms of international participation — only 12 foreign troupes are participating this year compared with 16 and 18 over the past years — the event will be another landmark in Jordan's efforts to present its artistic and cultural standards and traditions to the outside world, he told the Jordan Times Weekender in an interview.

It will also mark the first time foreign troupes will be paying their way to Amman to participate in the festival. "Perhaps this will account for the reduced number of foreign participants and the

delayed announcement of the schedule for the festival," according to Masa'weh, who took over as director-general of the event in 1989. For instance, he says, "we received the confirmation of participation of a foreign group only last week."

The organising committee will offer accommodation and transport for the non-Jordanian participating groups, which include folklore troupes from Syria, Pakistan, Turkey, Yugoslavia, Yemen and India, a theatre from Egypt which will present the "Cairo 80" play, a ballet group from Azerbaijan (the Soviet Union), and music groups from the U.S., France and Poland in addition to singers Nabeel Sha'el and Amr Diab.

Local organisations taking part in the 17-day festival include the Jordanian National Folklore Troupe, Al Yarmouk music group, Al Fubeis singing group, a theatre group from the Jordan University for Science and Technology (JUST), the Royal Jordanian Folklore troupe, the Haya Arts Centre, a children's theatre from the Ministry of Culture, and the Armed Forces Band.

Masa'weh expects this year's total public attendance to exceed last year's figure of 150,000. Fully confident that the organisers have left no stone unturned, he asserts that two of the major pre-occupations of his committee were public access and hygiene at the festival and they have been successfully addressed.

"We have ensured that the access and entry process will be very smooth," he said, apparently keeping in mind criticism in 1988 that there were some problems on the opening day of the festival.

"As far as hygiene is concerned, we are allowing only two sites for foodstuff inside the festival grounds," he added. "One will be a tent overlooking the Forum where food will be available at low prices and the other will be a restaurant run by the Amman Marriott where the prices will be the same as those of a four-star establishment."

The festival will open its door to the public from the very first day after a brief opening ceremony beginning at 6 p.m. in contrast to past years when the first day was restricted to invited guests.

Masa'weh emphasised that the government was in no way financially committed to supporting the festival, whose budget for this year is estimated at JD 114,000 — a cutdown by almost 50 per cent of the figure for 1988. "We hope to break even," he said.

Entry charges and prices of tickets for the various performances at the theatres and open air sites remain in the same range as last year: JD 1 for entry and tickets ranging from JD 1 to JD 6 per event.

In terms of timings and venues, the programmes remain along the broad pattern adopted since the early years of the festival. The day starts with open air performances at the Forum at 6 p.m. with music from the Armed Forces Band, followed by varying folkloric troupes taking the stage at 7 p.m. and 8.30 p.m.



Syrian culture, songs and dances will all come together at the ancient Roman city of Jerash.

Performances of the Mevlevi Soma group from Turkey, the Azerbaijani ballet, Omieh from Syria, "Cairo 80," the JUST play and singers Sha'el and Diab will be staged at the South Theatre. Starting timings range from 8.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m.

The Gary Buton Jazz Quintet from the U.S., the Warsaw Accordion Quintet, and a French quartet will perform at the Artemis steps. Children's plays — one from the Ministry of Culture and other from Haya Arts Centre — as well as poetry festivals (free admission) — will also be held at the same venue.

According to Masa'weh, the festival budget draws mainly from three sources: entry and performance tickets, ground and stall rentals from commercial enterprises and foreign sale of television programmes of the event in cooperation with the Jordan Radio, Television and Cinema Production Company.

Masa'weh also underlined the two main objectives of the festival: serving as a window to Jordanian artistic and cultural life and promoting tourism into the Kingdom. "We are rendering a cultural service both ways," he added. It presents images of Jordanian life to foreigners and offers glimpses into aspects of foreign cultural life to the Jordanians, he pointed out.

Recitals by Arab poets remain a highlight of this year's festival as they had been over the years. This year, Royal Jordanian (RJ) is

extending free passage to all participants in the recitals, Masa'weh said.

Turning to another internal dimension of the festival, Masa'weh said the organisers call for the cancelling the event altogether as "part of the democratic life in Jordan."

"We are living in a democratic era," he said. "It is the right of everyone to raise points they think are right and we respect this right."

Masa'weh was replying to a question on calls by the Muslim Brotherhood for the festival to be "more cultural than anything else" or the cancellation of the festival.

Senior government officials have said that since the government was not involved in organising the event, it was up to the committee of the festival to respond to the call.

"Jerash festival is not one of our priorities," according to Brotherhood spokesman Abdul Latif Arabiyyat, a member of the Lower House of Parliament. "All our efforts and priorities should be directed at strengthening our society against the Israeli enemy, and that is why we are calling for more focus on culture at the Jerash Festival or cancellation of the event," Arabiyyat told the Jordan Times Weekender.

Masa'weh also underlined the two main objectives of the festival: serving as a window to Jordanian artistic and cultural life and promoting tourism into the Kingdom. "We are rendering a cultural service both ways," he added. It presents images of Jordanian life to foreigners and offers glimpses into aspects of foreign cultural life to the Jordanians, he pointed out.

Recitals by Arab poets remain a highlight of this year's festival as they had been over the years. This year, Royal Jordanian (RJ) is

"We are ready to discuss any aspect of the festival with anyone and welcome suggestions."

"In fact, Jerash festivals have always been open to suggestions," he added.

In any event, Masa'weh said, "the festival is not simply an entertainment; it is a wholly artistic and cultural event and we believe that the festival remains very much within what is acceptable to Jordanian culture and life, and our cultural values and needs."

Emphasising that the festival had a multi-faceted approach to the entire spectrum of Jordanian culture, Masa'weh pointed out that poetry recitals, handicraft, painting and book exhibitions, and portrayals of traditional ways of life were very much part of the event.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, the originator of the idea of a national cultural festival, heads the Higher National Committee for Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture. Mrs. Laila Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a former minister of formation, is the vice-chairperson of the committee, which includes Her Royal Highness Princess Wajid Ali, the minister of tourism, the minister of culture, the director-general of Royal Jordanian, the director-general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, Mrs. Inam Al Mutti of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Michel Hamarneh in addition to Masa'weh.

However, the spirit of democracy is also shared by the Brotherhood, Arabiyyat said. "We have raised our point and it is their right to decide what to do," he said. "We are not against anyone," said Masa'weh.

Recitals by Arab poets remain a highlight of this year's festival as they had been over the years. This year, Royal Jordanian (RJ) is

extending free passage to all participants in the recitals, Masa'weh said.

Turning to another internal dimension of the festival, Masa'weh said the organisers call for the cancelling the event altogether as "part of the democratic life in Jordan."

"We are ready to discuss any aspect of the festival with anyone and welcome suggestions."

"In fact, Jerash festivals have always been open to suggestions," he added.

In any event, Masa'weh said, "the festival is not simply an entertainment; it is a wholly artistic and cultural event and we believe that the festival remains very much within what is acceptable to Jordanian culture and life, and our cultural values and needs."

Emphasising that the festival had a multi-faceted approach to the entire spectrum of Jordanian culture, Masa'weh pointed out that poetry recitals, handicraft, painting and book exhibitions, and portrayals of traditional ways of life were very much part of the event.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, the originator of the idea of a national cultural festival, heads the Higher National Committee for Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture. Mrs. Laila Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a former minister of formation, is the vice-chairperson of the committee, which includes Her Royal Highness Princess Wajid Ali, the minister of tourism, the minister of culture, the director-general of Royal Jordanian, the director-general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, Mrs. Inam Al Mutti of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Michel Hamarneh in addition to Masa'weh.

However, the spirit of democracy is also shared by the Brotherhood, Arabiyyat said. "We have raised our point and it is their right to decide what to do," he said. "We are not against anyone," said Masa'weh.

Recitals by Arab poets remain a highlight of this year's festival as they had been over the years. This year, Royal Jordanian (RJ) is

extending free passage to all participants in the recitals, Masa'weh said.

Turning to another internal dimension of the festival, Masa'weh said the organisers call for the cancelling the event altogether as "part of the democratic life in Jordan."

"We are ready to discuss any aspect of the festival with anyone and welcome suggestions."

"In fact, Jerash festivals have always been open to suggestions," he added.

In any event, Masa'weh said, "the festival is not simply an entertainment; it is a wholly artistic and cultural event and we believe that the festival remains very much within what is acceptable to Jordanian culture and life, and our cultural values and needs."

Emphasising that the festival had a multi-faceted approach to the entire spectrum of Jordanian culture, Masa'weh pointed out that poetry recitals, handicraft, painting and book exhibitions, and portrayals of traditional ways of life were very much part of the event.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, the originator of the idea of a national cultural festival, heads the Higher National Committee for Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture. Mrs. Laila Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a former minister of formation, is the vice-chairperson of the committee, which includes Her Royal Highness Princess Wajid Ali, the minister of tourism, the minister of culture, the director-general of Royal Jordanian, the director-general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, Mrs. Inam Al Mutti of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Michel Hamarneh in addition to Masa'weh.

However, the spirit of democracy is also shared by the Brotherhood, Arabiyyat said. "We have raised our point and it is their right to decide what to do," he said. "We are not against anyone," said Masa'weh.

Recitals by Arab poets remain a highlight of this year's festival as they had been over the years. This year, Royal Jordanian (RJ) is

extending free passage to all participants in the recitals, Masa'weh said.

Turning to another internal dimension of the festival, Masa'weh said the organisers call for the cancelling the event altogether as "part of the democratic life in Jordan."

"We are ready to discuss any aspect of the festival with anyone and welcome suggestions."

"In fact, Jerash festivals have always been open to suggestions," he added.

In any event, Masa'weh said, "the festival is not simply an entertainment; it is a wholly artistic and cultural event and we believe that the festival remains very much within what is acceptable to Jordanian culture and life, and our cultural values and needs."

Emphasising that the festival had a multi-faceted approach to the entire spectrum of Jordanian culture, Masa'weh pointed out that poetry recitals, handicraft, painting and book exhibitions, and portrayals of traditional ways of life were very much part of the event.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, the originator of the idea of a national cultural festival, heads the Higher National Committee for Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture. Mrs. Laila Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a former minister of formation, is the vice-chairperson of the committee, which includes Her Royal Highness Princess Wajid Ali, the minister of tourism, the minister of culture, the director-general of Royal Jordanian, the director-general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, Mrs. Inam Al Mutti of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Michel Hamarneh in addition to Masa'weh.

However, the spirit of democracy is also shared by the Brotherhood, Arabiyyat said. "We have raised our point and it is their right to decide what to do," he said. "We are not against anyone," said Masa'weh.

Recitals by Arab poets remain a highlight of this year's festival as they had been over the years. This year, Royal Jordanian (RJ) is

extending free passage to all participants in the recitals, Masa'weh said.

Turning to another internal dimension of the festival, Masa'weh said the organisers call for the cancelling the event altogether as "part of the democratic life in Jordan."

"We are ready to discuss any aspect of the festival with anyone and welcome suggestions."

"In fact, Jerash festivals have always been open to suggestions," he added.

In any event, Masa'weh said, "the festival is not simply an entertainment; it is a wholly artistic and cultural event and we believe that the festival remains very much within what is acceptable to Jordanian culture and life, and our cultural values and needs."

Emphasising that the festival had a multi-faceted approach to the entire spectrum of Jordanian culture, Masa'weh pointed out that poetry recitals, handicraft, painting and book exhibitions, and portrayals of traditional ways of life were very much part of the event.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, the originator of the idea of a national cultural festival, heads the Higher National Committee for Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture. Mrs. Laila Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a former minister of formation, is the vice-chairperson of the committee, which includes Her Royal Highness Princess Wajid Ali, the minister of tourism, the minister of culture, the director-general of Royal Jordanian, the director-general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, Mrs. Inam Al Mutti of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Michel Hamarneh in addition to Masa'weh.

However, the spirit of democracy is also shared by the Brotherhood, Arabiyyat said. "We have raised our point and it is their right to decide what to do," he said. "We are not against anyone," said Masa'weh.

Recitals by Arab poets remain a highlight of this year's festival as they had been over the years. This year, Royal Jordanian (RJ) is

extending free passage to all participants in the recitals, Masa'weh said.

Turning to another internal dimension of the festival, Masa'weh said the organisers call for the cancelling the event altogether as "part of the democratic life in Jordan."

"We are ready to discuss any aspect of the festival with anyone and welcome suggestions."

"In fact, Jerash festivals have always been open to suggestions," he added.

In any event, Masa'weh said, "the festival is not simply an entertainment; it is a wholly artistic and cultural event and we believe that the festival remains very much within what is acceptable to Jordanian culture and life, and our cultural values and needs."

Emphasising that the festival had a multi-faceted approach to the entire spectrum of Jordanian culture, Masa'weh pointed out that poetry recitals, handicraft, painting and book exhibitions, and portrayals of traditional ways of life were very much part of the event.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, the originator of the idea of a national cultural festival, heads the Higher National Committee for Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture. Mrs. Laila Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a former minister of formation, is the vice-chairperson of the committee, which includes Her Royal Highness Princess Wajid Ali, the minister of tourism, the minister of culture, the director-general of Royal Jordanian, the director-general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, Mrs. Inam Al Mutti of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Michel Hamarneh in addition to Masa'weh.

However, the spirit of democracy is also shared by the Brotherhood, Arabiyyat said. "We have raised our point and it is their right to decide what to do," he said. "We are not against anyone," said Masa'weh.

Recitals by Arab poets remain a highlight of this year's festival as they had been over the years. This year, Royal Jordanian (RJ) is

extending free passage to all participants in the recitals, Masa'weh said.

Turning to another internal dimension of the festival, Masa'weh said the organisers call for the cancelling the event altogether as "part of the democratic life in Jordan."

"We are ready to discuss any aspect of the festival with anyone and welcome suggestions."

"In fact, Jerash festivals have always been open to suggestions," he added.

In any event, Masa'weh said, "the festival is not simply an entertainment; it is a wholly artistic and cultural event and we believe that the festival remains very much within what is acceptable to Jordanian culture and life, and our cultural values and needs."

Emphasising that the festival had a multi-faceted approach to the entire spectrum of Jordanian culture, Masa'weh pointed out that poetry recitals, handicraft, painting and book exhibitions, and portrayals of traditional ways of life were very much part of the event.

Her Majesty Queen Noor, the originator of the idea of a national cultural festival, heads the Higher National Committee for Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture. Mrs. Laila Sharaf, a member of the Upper House of Parliament and a former minister of formation, is the vice-chairperson of the committee, which includes Her Royal Highness Princess Wajid Ali, the minister of tourism, the minister of culture, the director-general of Royal Jordanian, the director-general of the Jordan Radio and Television Corporation, Mrs. Inam Al Mutti of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, and Michel Hamarneh in addition to Masa'weh.

However, the spirit of democracy is also shared by the Brotherhood, Arabiyyat said. "We have raised our point and it is their right to decide what to do," he said. "We are not against anyone," said Masa'weh.

Recitals by Arab poets remain a highlight of this year's festival as they had been over the years. This year, Royal Jordanian (RJ) is

extending free passage to all participants in the recitals, Masa'weh said.

Turning to another internal dimension of the festival, Masa'weh said the organisers call for the cancelling the event altogether as "part of the democratic life in Jordan."

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, June 21

8:30 A Different World

It is vacation time. Denise has plans to spend hers in Greece, but her mother thinks differently. It seems mothers know what's best.

9:10 Dolphin Cove

Michael's friend Peter drops in supposedly to attend the wedding ceremony on the boat but instead he blows the boat to pieces. Something wrong but the truth is revealed in the end.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

England Vs Egypt

11:45 Movie of the Week

Little White Lies

A doctor and a cop meet on a plane bound for Rome. They fall in love and both conceal their true identities. In the end they find out about each other and remain in love.

Friday, June 22

8:30 Didi's Comedy Show

The Firm Double

To the dismay of everyone involved Didi tries out acting in a play. You can imagine the consequences. The director breaks down and the studio disintegrates.

9:10 Beauty and the Beast

Vincent and Diana are by now good friends and he shows her more of his world underground. Jacob contemplates moving to the world above and Vincent supports him.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Quincy



Saturday, June 23

8:30 Empty Nest

Lessons

9:45 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

Monday, June 25

8:30 Perfect Strangers

Tuesday, June 26

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

Wednesday, June 27

8:30 The Golden Girls

the Third World. UNICEF cooperation with the villagers have found a very simple cure.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

Balki wants to document his daily life on celluloid and send the film to his mom. Larry brings in two actresses to enliven the show and this cuts Balki off.

9:00 Blue Blood

A few murders happen in the city, and there is one murder at the Contess Palace. Henry and Lisa are able to unlock the mystery surrounding these murders.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

Tuesday, June 26

8:30 Charles in Charge

Chaos rules the house when the children decide to abide by no rules, and even ask Charles not to interfere. But soon wake up to the reality that life without order is no life at all.

9:10 A Horseman Riding By

Craddock has been gone for three months now, his wife Claire all the while is good to everyone in his absence and handles herself wisely.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

Wednesday, June 27

8:30 The Golden Girls

Dorothy's daughter has a fight with her husband. There is Dorothy's chance to fill her time with some story, but husband and wife make amends and Dorothy is disappointed.

9:10 The Nuclear Age

In this episode we get to know about Richard Nixon's attempts to end the Vietnam war, and to limit the arms race between U.S. and Soviet Union, eventually leading to the signing of SALT II treaty.

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Empty Nest

Lessons

9:45 Encounter

9:30 Classical Music

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie of the Week

Perfect Strangers

9:00 Blue Blood

9:45 News in English

10:00 World Cup

11:45 Movie

# The Lancashire lad of many laughs spotlighted in festivities

By Robert Barr  
The Associated Press

LONDON — Long before he met Oliver Hardy, Stan Laurel made people laugh all by himself.

He was the disaster-prone, stage-struck Lancashire boy, born Stanley Jefferson, who set the stage on fire on the opening night of a home theatre.

The first time he performed in a real theatre, he squashed his father's top hat, then ripped his best frock coat for an encore.

Those were the little mishaps on the road to Hollywood, where Stanley Jefferson in 1918 became Stan Laurel, star of 75 movies on his own and co-star with Oliver Hardy in 105 more.

For Laurel's 100th birthday on June 16, however, all roads lead to 3 Argyle St. in Ulverston, the northern town where Stanley Jefferson was born.

The attractions include the birthplace, the balcony in Coronation Hall where Laurel and Hardy greeted townspeople in 1947; the Laurel and Hardy Museum and the Com-

panionship of the Sons of the Desert, members of the international Laurel and Hardy Fan Club.

And what will they learn of their hero?

"A difficult one, that," said Bill Cubin, curator of the Laurel and Hardy Museum. "I don't think the surroundings could tell you anything about Stan. His grandfather and grandmother were simple Ulverstonian people."

Letters written by Laurel and now in the museum's collection reflect happy memories of fishing in the canal, rolling Easter eggs or shopping with grandma Metcalfe.

"That was a big event for me," Laurel recalled in one letter. "She used to buy me beer's treacle toffee. It sure was good."

The day after the birthday, a plaque will be dedicated at a more significant spot: North Shields, near the mouth of the River Tyne and clear across the country from Ulverston.

In the attic of the family home in North Shields, A.J. Jefferson built a theatre for plays written, produced, directed and starring his

year-old son, Stanley.

John McCabe, an American actor and author of the Comedy World Stan Laurel, found much of the story of Laurel's early days in an article written in 1939 by the father, a small-time impresario who operated theatres here and there in Britain.

As the senior Jefferson told the tale, Stanley cast himself as the hero in the first of the attic productions and recruited for the villain a boy named Harold, whose principal asset was a bulldog sort of face — and temperament.

On opening night, the boys played a fight scene so intensely that a lamp was knocked over and both boys were burned. One imagines poor Harold spluttering, "This is a fine mess."

Harold apparently wrote to Stanley about his dischantment, and it's unlikely that he was appeased by this reply: "The fire was all you fault. If you had let go of my throat when you saw my face going all red, we shouldn't have rolled over as far as the lamps. You have lost nothing over the accident. I have lost my

theatre. ... I am sorry about your eyebrows being burned off, of course, but they will grow again."

The house is no longer standing, Cubin said, but Laurel devotees can travel north to see the derelict Pickard's Theatre in Glasgow, Scotland, where 16-year-old Stanley Jefferson made his professional debut.

He was then working for his father at Metropole Theatre, on the business side, but he fibbed to his father about wanting to attend a party and sneaked off to appear at Pickard's.

A.J. Jefferson was out strolling that night, wandered into Pickard's and was surprised to find several pieces of his clothing there, and his son performing in them. Stanley didn't notice his father until he was taking his bows, and A.J. recalled the scene:

"Giving a subdued yell of horrified astonishment, he dropped my topper which thereupon rolled toward the footlights. Stan pursued it, tried to get to the orchestra where one of the musicians made a rush to retrieve it and

stepped on it, squashing it thoroughly."

"Then Stan made a dash for the exit but his neck was out.

As he ran off, he came in

Pardon Us



Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy

Hardy.

It wasn't until 1926, however, that they became a team in 45 Minutes from Hollywood. It was the birth of one of the greatest comedy teams in film history — The ready, bairi scratching Laurel with his

childish innocence and mischief, and the tubby tie-twirling Hardy whose cherubic face belied a short temper when his partner got them into "another fine mess."

Laurel died in 1965. Hardy died in 1957.

## Popular Indian TV serial tapers off, what next?

By Raj Gopalakrishnan  
Associated Press

NEW DELHI — In mid-July many Indians will revert to sleeping late Sundays, going for a "drive" of eating a good breakfast.

Most haven't done so for more than 18 months, because they've stayed riveted to the television screen every Sunday at 9 a.m. for another installment of the Mahabharata, a mythological Hindu epic whose television incarnation is the country's hottest show.

Doordarshan, the government department that controls the only nationwide channel, estimates the one-hour shows — which conclude on July 8 — attract an average audience of 90 million people each week, or more than one-tenth of India's population of 880 million.

The serial is in the Hindi language, but Doordarshan officials say its appeal reaches far beyond the northern, Hindi-speaking regions of the country. In the southern state of Kerala, newspapers publish a transcript of each week's show in Malayalam, the local language.

"People here are highly involved in the Mahabharata," says I.G. Venugopal, a resident of Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala. "They read the newspaper to get to know the outline and then watch the serial."

Venugopal, a ham radio buff, says even ham operators are much quieter during the programmes.

The Mahabharata is a kaleidoscope of court intrigue and fierce battle between two sets of feuding brothers, tempered with religion, philosophy and the virtues and vices

of princes and aspiring kings. Many Hindus learn the story in their childhood, when it is re-told as the victory of good over evil with the five good Pandava brothers defeating the 100 bad Kauravas.

But now, as the show begins to peak (the 99th Kaurava has just been killed in battle), several twists and nuances are beginning to come through. The Pandavas aren't lily white; they have used every trick in the book to win.

And some on the Kaurava side aren't totally bad. Their army chief — who is the illegitimate son of the mother of the Pandavas — is chivalrous in battle. And the guru of the Pandavas, another good guy, was on the Kaurava side until he died.

"Most of this we didn't know," says Shailendra Chopra, an employee of Indian Airlines, the domestic air carrier. "It's like a crime thriller. What will happen next?"

The Mahabharata appears to have transcended religious barriers in India, where 82 percent of the people are Hindu but there are large communities of Muslims, Sikhs and Christians.

In one New Delhi house, two Muslims carpenters installing new windows threatened to take Sunday off unless if they were given access to the television set.

"I watch the serial every week. If I miss an episode now, I won't understand anything," said Naseem Ahmad. The Mahabharata is also big business.

Doordarshan, which means "far vision," says it gets about 6.5 million rupees (\$380,000) for selling individual advertisement spots before the serial each week.

Permanent commercial sponsors of the programme get free spots in exchange for the money they pay the serial's producer.

The price received by producer B.R. Chopra is guarded, but newspapers estimate he gets about 1 million rupees (\$58,000) per installment. About one-third of that amount is profit.

"It will take a long time for us to get another serial like this," said Abdul Sattar Tari, the Doordarshan official in charge of television programmes. "Both in terms of audience appeal and revenue."

Tari, a Muslim, said his family avidly watches the Mahabharata. "Show me a family which doesn't," he said. "Hindus, Muslims, Christians, anyone."

Doordarshan plans to bring

out a serial on Indian war heroes in the Mahabharata slot after the epic goes off the air, Tari said.

"It definitely won't be as popular," he said. "People seem to prefer going back to mythological serials, and we are also trying to get one of those for telecast within a few months."

The planned serials include one on the Bible and another on Chanakya, an Indian philosopher who was part of King Ashoka's court in the third century B.C.

"I have to feed my kids in front of the television set on Sundays," said Gurmeet Kaur, a New Delhi housewife who is a Sikh.

Told about the programme, Tari said: "War heroes? I guess it's back to eating breakfast at the dining table."

## Sharp drop in U.S. TV viewing may signal change of habits

By Deborah Hastings  
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Is the U.S. "couch potato" dead?

Television viewers across the country appear to be tuning out and turning off in record number, upsetting broadcasters and advertisers alike.

The latest survey by the respected A.C. Nielsen Co. indicates that 2 million U.S. households have simply switched off their television sets — a trend that could spell millions of dollars in lost broadcast revenues.

Nielsen offers no explanation for this drastic and unprecedented decline, but U.S. TV networks ABC, CBS and NBC say they just don't believe millions of people have abruptly stopped watching.

Others blame a switch to cable television and even home videos.

"The use of the set has been a very, very predictable behaviour," said Alan Wurtzel, ABC's research chief. "All of a sudden, the rug has been pulled out and the behaviour has been changed and no one can explain why."

"Nielsen has lost people they can't account for," he added. "According to them, they have simply gone away."

To realize why Nielsen's figures have turned U.S. TV on its ear to understand how the company's rating system is the foundation upon which the television industry is built.

"People metres" installed in 4,000 homes across the country provide the ratings that help decide which shows make it and which don't. But more importantly, the Nielsen numbers provide the base for what networks charge advertisers for commercial time.

And these are the Nielsen figures for the first quarter of this year that have caused such a stir:

Seemingly overnight, overall television viewing is down 4 per cent, as compared to the same period in 1989.

In prime-time audiences of women between the ages of 18 and 49 — an audience crucial to advertisers because this group buys most consumer goods — viewership is down nearly 10 per cent.

Enter the controversy.

The networks say the Nielsen "people metre" system, used nationally since 1987, is fundamentally flawed as a programme draws less than the promised number, the advertiser is given free "make good" time on another show.

## In Paris, painting goes out into the streets

By Geoffroy Guissen  
PARIS is fond of her painters. After being their muse, she today acts as an art display area and brings painting out of museums and galleries into the streets.

The idea goes back a hundred years, right to the time when Baron Haussmann, when tearing old districts down, had the bare end-walls decorated by artists. But the phenomenon has only recently, in the last ten years, taken on the dimensions of a cultural movement. Its new masters are Folon, Menard and Sevres.

Wall advertising soon took on huge proportions and led to polemics. Certain journalists and columnists spoke of "road leprosy." In 1943, the National Assembly passed a law limiting the maximum area for a wall advertisement, for both posters and paintings, to 16 square-metres. A mere nothing.

### The wind of May

Were we on the way to the end of an art which had barely seen the light of day? May 1968 tore up the paving-stones in the streets and covered the walls with graffiti and this wind of liberation brought the appearance of the first strictly decorative murals. California had set this trend in the 60s but its art remained spontaneous. French wall artists were to work mainly to order.

The first decorated wall dates from 1971, when François Orellet divided up two perpendicular end-walls at the corner of Rue Quincampoix and Rue Aubry-la-Boucher in the Beaubourg district, into red and blue squares. The following year, a property de-

veloper ordered an 800 square-metre mural from Bertholo for Rue Dessous. This was to be "The Imaginary Town," a colourful, naive composition. Plastic artists, for their part, grouped together to paint the first district collective work made in France, in Rue Pernety, in 1977. It was painted without the agreement of the city and expresses the will of the inhabitants to resist against the threats of being transplanted.

Another theme is trompe-l'oeil art, such as the false windows in Rue Quincampoix, painted by Fabio Reiti, in 1976. The work quickly became famous and its creator became a star of the genre.

The 80s saw the explosion of this artistic genre which is so profitable for the municipality. Huge half-advertising, half-decorative programmes were set up by the city, and production was left up to the advertising-space concessionaire, Societe Dauphine. The mural art advert was born. In 1983, the first Golden Dolphin was awarded for the best project, and, from 1985, painted advertisement walls, which had, until then, been limited to the outskirts, finally moved into the heart of the city.

Today, the walls of Paris are cheerfully being painted, combining advertising slogans and artistic quips: Pirelli and its tyres run along Quai de la Rapée quayside. The monkey eats his "petits suisses" cream cheese behind the Pompidou Centre and Banque Populaire

offers itself to everybody at 115 Rue Montmartre. But this does not mean that the walls are offered to the highest bidder. The municipality also makes an effort to promote purely decorative murals with works such as "The Pianist," an acrylic painting 120 square-metres in Rue de la Jonquière, and "La Porte," in the 15th district. It also uses the services of artists for painting communal end-walls. The author whose project is chosen, and who follows the work being carried out, is paid 50,000 francs. The cost of the work is covered by the city and varies between 1,000 and 1,500 francs a square metre. Painted walls are now part of our everyday landscape and their example is contagious.

Firms cleaning buildings increasingly use artistically decorated tarpaulins during their work. This was the case with the ARC de Triomphe and the La Coupole Restaurant whose tarpaulin reproduced the cafe terrace.

"Anybody can have an idea," proclaims a mural artist. Paris offers itself to him, to exhibit in prime time. The networks say the Nielsen "people metre" system, used nationally since 1987, is fundamentally flawed as a programme draws less than the promised number, the advertiser is given free "make good" time on another show.

Advertisers buy time on the fall schedule based on a network's guarantee to provide a certain number of viewers. If a programme draws less than the promised number, the advertiser is given free "make good" time on another show.



French painters' talents are on display on the walls of Paris buildings.

## Michel Jouvet --

## The explorer of the brain

By Jean Chabrier

PARIS — Michel Jouvet is almost totally ignored by the media and unknown to the general public. Yet, he deserves better.

For centuries, the brain was the object of superstitious terror and, in primitive societies, it was the custom to eat the brain of the dead enemy either to avoid being haunted by him or to acquire the virtues he had while he was alive. Because of their appearance resembling the brain, walnuts were taboo.

For a long time, mental illness was also a subject of horror and the Frenchman A.

Pinel had to use all his prestige, around the middle of the 19th century, to stop these patients from being "treated" by being beaten with a club, stoned between two mattresses, or even burnt. Then came hydrotherapy (that is to say cold showers), the padded cell, etc., and, finally, anatomists and physiologists who started to become more interested in that taboo organ.

In a hundred years, great progress was made, gradually building up a map of the brain (which has still not yet been finished), drawing up an inventory of neuro-mediators

(which has not been finished either), and designing therapies which give hope of bringing mental illnesses to an end. But the brain remains a highly mysterious area.

If Michel Jouvet had been born in the 17th century, he would have been burnt alive as a sorcerer. Fortunately, he was born in 1924. From the beginning of his medical studies, he was fascinated by neurology, and then the brain itself, and he took advantage of the extraordinary possibilities offered to researchers by exploration techniques: radiology, electro-encephalography, neurophysiology, neurobiology, etc.

In the early 50s, which seem so near and yet are already so far away, practically nothing was known about that strange state called sleep. There had indeed been a work by an English doctor who had managed to isolate a substance, called serotonin, in elephants who went mad. That was the time when Michel Jouvet and his collaborators tackled the problem and, in 1959, he published a revolutionary study: between wakefulness and sleep, there existed a "third continent", that of dreams, an area which had, until then, been left to dream books,



Michel Jouvet, the explorer of the "third continent"

sleep. He also demonstrated that the alternation between wakefulness and sleep depended on the concentration of two opposing substances: serotonin and noradrenaline.

Finally, he proved that the amount of paradoxical sleep depended on the central body temperature. Professor Jouvet was recently involved in developing the "anti-sleep pill", modafinil.

Thirty years of work, gradually piecing together the puzzle of the brain, have led Jouvet to draw up the criteria of brain death, particularly by electro-encephalography. This led to a phrase which provoked the anger of psychoanalysts: "Man, like animals, is

progress in re-animation techniques.

He renewed the eternal debate over what is innate and what is acquired in drawing up a theory which has gained him an original reputation. Squirrels, born in a cage, separated from their mothers at birth and fed on gruel, kept the reflex enabling them to crack hazelnuts. What is more, they continued this gesture when dreaming, without having ever learnt it, because their genetic programme (what is innate to them) gave them this behaviour. This led to a phrase which provoked the anger of psychoanalysts: "Man, like animals, is

dreamed by his genes". But he is still waiting for those who do not agree to experimentally prove the contrary.

Jouvet has been a member of the French Academy of Science since 1977. He is a professor in Lyons and a director of the neurophysiology and neurochemistry unit of the French National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS) and of the molecular oncology unit of the French Health and Medical Research Institute (INSERM). He was recently awarded the CNRS gold medal on the occasion of the organisation's 50th anniversary.

## 'Pregnant women can gain weight safely, do not need vitamins'

By Paul Recer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Pregnant women who eat balanced diets don't need extra vitamins and can safely gain more weight than previously believed, according to guidelines released by a research institute affiliated with the U.S. government.

The guidelines from the Institute of Medicine, based on a review of studies on nutrition, weight gain and pregnancy, say the average woman who gain 25 to 35 pounds (11 to 16 kilograms) during pregnancy is more apt to produce a healthy, normal-weight baby. The study said also that, with few exceptions, vitamins and other food supplements are of no value in pregnancy.

Officials in the nutritional supplement industry were quick to dispute the committee findings that said vitamin pills were of no value in pregnancy.

may know best.

"Women, when they are not told to restrict their diet during pregnancy, normally gain this amount of weight (25 to 35 pounds) (11 to 16 kilograms)," said Ms. Allen, who was a chairman of a study subcommittee. "What we are doing is recognising that dietary restriction in pregnancy is not a good idea. Normal weight gain is better."

"Evidence that the committee reviewed is the reported experience of large groups of women," said Dr. Roy M. Pitkin, an obstetrician at the University of California at Los Angeles who chaired the committee that released the study. "In a sense, this brings health recommendations in line with what is actually happening."

Cordaro cited studies that showed some nutrients, such as folic acid, may reduce the risk of spina bifida and other neural tube birth defects.

Ms. Allen said, however,

that the committee found earlier studies to be inconclusive.

Furthermore, she said, the amount of nutrient sufficient to affect birth defect rates would be consumed in a normal, balanced diet.

Weight gain in pregnancy

has been a major issue in medicine since the 19th century, when physicians believed overeating led to large babies and difficult labours. In recent years, most doctors have followed guidelines established in 1970 by the National Research Council, another government-affiliated body, that advised women to gain no more than 25 pounds (11 kilograms) during pregnancy.

But Ms. Allen, who gained just over 30 pounds (13 kilograms) during her own recent pregnancy, said members of her committee studied new statistical data that shows "women can gain more weight and have babies who are bigger and healthier at birth."

They used this new supporting evidence to say that weight gain should be higher than recommended previously.

The report said weight gain during pregnancy should be evaluated on an individual basis, considering the

woman's height and body type. Tall, underweight women, the study said, should gain between 28 and 40 pounds (13 and 18 kilograms) during pregnancy, while obese women should gain only about 15 pounds (7 kilograms).

Ms. Allen said this follows a weight gain pattern that women seem to follow naturally.

How fast pregnant women gain weight is important. The committee said a gain of one pound (0.5 kilograms) a week is best during the second and third trimesters of pregnancy for the average woman, while overweight women should gain at half that rate.

"A smooth, steady weight gain usually is an indication of an increase in lean and fat," a committee statement said. "Sudden or erratic gain may indicate fluid retention, a possible signal of toxemia or other problems."

For normal women eating balanced diets, Ms. Allen said vitamin pills and other food supplements are not needed and could even be hazardous.

"We find it irresponsible to suggest that supplements are needed when we can't find any evidence that women taking healthy balanced diets will gain any benefit from them whatsoever," she said.

"We've done a very thorough search of the literature and the data are just not there to make a case that all women need the supplementation of nutrients."

An exception is for iron pills.

"Supplements of 30 milligrams of ferrous iron are recommended daily during the second and third trimesters" for the general population of pregnant women, the study said.

Ms. Allen said an excess intake of some other nutrients, such as Vitamin A, could adversely affect fetal development.

## American diet and lifestyle create cancer risks — study

By Paul Recer  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A comparative study of more than 3,000 Chinese and Chinese-Americans has given new support to the importance of exercise and diet in avoiding cancer, a U.S. researcher says.

The study found that Chinese immigrants who adopt the typical American diet and lifestyle are four to seven times more likely to develop colorectal cancer than those people who remain in China.

A lack of exercise and lots of rich American foods containing saturated fats make the difference, Alice S. Whittemore of Stanford University has said.

"If you want to avoid the disease, I would by all means stay active," she said. "Even more importantly, take it easy on rich high fat dairy products and very fatty red meat. Eating fish and chicken is certainly prudent."

The study, published recently in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, is based on interviews with Chinese in the People's Republic of China and with Chinese-Americans who immigrated to the United States or whose parents immigrated.

About 90 per cent of the Chinese-Americans interviewed came to the United States as young adults.

Of those chosen for interviews, 473 Americans and 432 Chinese had either colon or rectal cancer. The researchers also interviewed 1,192 Chinese-Americans and 1,295 people in China who were free of disease but who lived near those with the cancers.

The interviews probed diet, exercise and other habits of all the subjects.

For the Chinese-Americans, Ms. Whittemore said, the interviewers explored every aspect of Westernisation, including such things as use of herbal medicines, languages spoken at home and even which newspapers were read.

All those factors were correlated with the incidence of colon and rectal cancer.

"Vegetables appeared to be protective," she said. "The more vegetable you eat, the lower your risks."



According to WHO, about 4 billion people in the developing world rely on traditional medicine using plants like those prepared in a drugstore in Central Java, Indonesia.

ocean trench for more than 500,000 years, and as such it's a haven for wildlife and flora," explained project supervisor Dr. Anton Fernhout, who is also Dutch but was born and educated in Indonesia. "There could be something really exceptional hid-

## THE WORLD'S MEDICINE CHESTS AT WARRIOR'S ENDANGERED

By Clare Pedrick

GENEVA, Switzerland — Most people know that the foxglove produces digoxin, which doctors use to regulate the heartbeat, and that aspirin comes from the bark of the willow tree. But did you know that the contraceptive pill is made from the Mexican yam, or that the drug which now gives hope to four out of every five children suffering from leukemia is made from the rosy periwinkle, a plant found on the island of Madagascar?

More than one quarter of all drugs produced by the world's pharmaceutical companies are based on plants, according to studies by the United Nations' World Health Organisation (WHO). Yet, of an estimated 250,000 flowering plants believed to be in existence, only 10 per cent have been tested for medicinal properties.

The thousands of species that have yet to be examined almost certainly hold surprises and possibly cures for some of the biggest modern-day killers, including cancer, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and heart disease, scientists say. But the mapping of the world's giant natural medicine chest is proving a race against time.

Pollution, building development and the clearing of the tropical rainforests have

already wiped out an estimated 15 per cent of all known plants. Half the Earth's varieties are to be found in the warm, wet climate of the rainforests, currently disappearing at the rate of 100 acres a minute. Conservationists estimate that five species are obliterated every day. By the year 2050, they say, 60,000 plant types, or one in four, could be extinct.

"The scale of destruction is dramatic," said Paul Wachtel at the headquarters of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Gland, near Geneva. "We are losing plants that have not even been identified and that could possibly have provided us with life-saving medicines."

In the United States, scientists at the National Cancer Institute near Washington D.C. are currently screening about 10,000 substances a year, including flowering plants, algae and fungi, in an attempt to find a breakthrough for AIDS and for more than 100 different types of cancer. The institute has awarded grants to botanical societies and universities throughout the world to help them collect, identify and test plant species.

Initial results have proved encouraging. The screening of 18,000 marine plants and organisms produced what researchers describe as "sever-

al interesting leads," one of them, a substance named as Dideeman B, isolated from a Caribbean invertebrate called a sea squirt, has already entered clinical trials. In separate research programmes, scientists found that cancer of the lungs, kidney and testis respond to Etoposide, a drug produced by Mayapples, long used by American Indians for the treatment of warts. Researchers looking for an AIDS vaccine say they are interested by compounds found in an Amazonian oak tree and a variety of Australian chestnut. A complex sugar found in the Japanese white pine has shown some success in killing the AIDS virus in laboratory conditions. It too has entered clinical trials.

"At the moment it's impossible to say how important this discovery will be, but it could possibly lead to a better understanding of the AIDS virus, and ultimately a cure," Wachtel said. "The problem is there is a risk many varieties will disappear before we can get to them. Japan's white pine forests, for example, are being threatened by population pressure and by over-collection for bonsai."

On the same note, Dr. Michael Blick of the New York Botanical Garden — one of three top U.S. botan-

ists involved in the \$5 million National Cancer Institute Programme — has warned that time is running out for research into plant medicine.

"The rates of extinction are escalating so quickly that if one were to find a plant that displayed interesting bioactivity, it's quite possible to go back and find its habitat destroyed," he said.

The threat is particularly serious for the developing world which relies heavily on natural medicine, experts say.

"If you take away the forests from seed to swell their numbers. In Malaysia and Indonesia, WWF-funded botanists are helping with the cancer institute's plant identification programme, while in Sri Lanka conservationists have asked Buddhist monks to help identify areas which harbour concentrations of medicinal herbs so they can be protected. Studies on the use of medicinal plants by local tribes are also being carried out in Africa, the Amazon Basin and in Thailand. In India, where the ancient ayu-

vedic "science of life" depends heavily on the use of herbal medicine, the WWF established a network of nature clubs to promote awareness of conservation among the young.

Wachtel himself took in a WWF project in China, in the small region of Xishuangbanna, near the border with Burma and Laos. Although representing just 0.2 per cent of China's territory, the area has 13 per cent of the world's plant species, among them an herb called Artemisinin,

which appears to be able to fight the killer disease cerebral malaria.

"We haven't been able to explore all the plants here yet, but we know there are many which are of benefit to local people right now, and many more which could probably be of enormous importance to the rest of the world," Wachtel said.

Another plant found in a WWF project in Ethiopia has given hope to some of the hundreds of thousands of victims of Bilharzia, a debilitating disease transmitted by water snails and endemic in 76 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. Scientists have discovered that the common Ethiopian soapberry plant contains a natural snail-killing chemical which cleans water without producing the harmful effects of industrial pesticides.

On the Indonesian island of Siberut, off the west coast of Sumatra, Dutch botanist Dr. Wanda Ave has spent two years accompanying medicine men through the forest to collect and prepare herbal remedies, and in the villages to administer them to the sick. As part of her research she has collected 1,000 samples of local plant species which are being screened for medicinal properties.

"Siberut has been isolated from the mainland by a deep

JPJ, inc/lid



# Iran races to feed exploding population

TEHRAN (AP) — The government, alarmed by a population explosion that threatens to outstrip resources, is driving to boost food production and curb the runaway birth rate. But it faces an uphill struggle. Thirty years ago Iran was a food exporter. Now it has to spend \$2 to \$4 billion a year on food imports. That's one-third of its total import bill.

Food subsidies cost another \$1.75 billion a year, straining an economy that is in poor shape after a decade of mismanagement and the 1980-88 war with Iraq.

Officials say more than 10 million tons of staples will have to be imported every year.

President Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani's government has allocated \$64 billion for agricultural development in its five-year plan — one-third invested by the government and the rest by the private sector.

However, the government's main priority for revitalising the economy is to strengthen industry.

The outlook for agriculture will be closely tied to the government's success in raising oil revenues and reforming economic policy in the new five-year plan. Keith McLachan of London University's School of Oriental and African Studies wrote in the Middle East Economic Digest.

"Unless there are clear signs that the state is willing to invest substantial funds in agriculture... and private enterprise has confidence in the sector's medium-term stability, neither sustained prosperity nor a sorely needed rise in food self-sufficiency look at likely in the immediate future."

Iran's population, about 55 million, is swelling at the alarming rate of 3.9 per cent a year, one of the highest in the world. By comparison, India's population is growing 2.2 per cent, and China's is increasing at only 1.4 per cent.

If Iran's current birth rate continues unchecked, the population will reach 140 million in 20 years.

Iranian officials contend that attempts to curb the birth rate so far have been half-hearted.

partly because many Shi'ite Muslim clergymen maintain that birth control is proscribed by Islam.

The mullahs argue that a large population will help Iran become the leader of the Islamic world and ensure its power and prosperity.

The Iran Statistics Centre reported in March that there are 56 million hectares of arable land, but only 17 million hectares are currently being cultivated.

The late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi launched agricultural reforms before he was toppled in the 1979 Islamic revolution. But agricultural production was falling behind population growth long before the monarch's ouster.

That trend has accelerated since 1979, despite erratic attempts to boost food production.

"Under the Shah, agricultural production bid increase, but so did the population. But since the revolution there has been a definite downward trend in agriculture," said a United Nations official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The question is not whether agriculture can be boosted, but if it can race to keep up with the population," he observed.

The statistics centre noted that wheat, barley and rice production have increased considerably since 1982, but still lag behind population growth.

But agricultural production last year was severely hit by drought. Output fell by an estimated 15-20 per cent over 1988 and this year's production is also likely to be affected.

## Huge migration

A lot of farmland fell into disuse during the war, when funds were channelled to the military. An estimated 750,000 people a year move from the countryside to the cities.

Ali, a 36-year-old construction worker in Teheran, said his family has farmed for generations in northern Gilan province. But he and his three brothers were forced to leave their land because they could

no longer make a living there.

"Shortages forced us to buy seeds, fertilisers and pesticides at exorbitant prices," he said as he shared a lunch of bread and cheese with two other workers on a Tehran construction site.

"But when we demanded higher prices for our products we were forced to sell at officially designated rates — at a loss," he complained. "After living with dignity under my father's roof, I don't like this life."

Former Tehran Mayor Morteza Tabatabaei noted recently that the mass migration to the cities "has caused irreparable damage to the agricultural sector."

Until the mid-1960s, more than one-third of Iranians worked on farms and the country was able to feed itself.

Today, only one-eighth of the population work in agriculture — and the government is hard pressed to keep them there.

The population of Tehran, the capital, has mushroomed from three million a decade ago to around 10 million. Other cities such as Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz and Mashhad are bursting at the seams as well.

To lure farmers back to their villages, a massive land reform programme, snarled in the bureaucratic morass for years, is being pushed through parliament.

The programme aims to force land-owning government organisations to break up their holdings.

Redistribution of land has been a political football since the revolution, with radicals campaigning for breaking up the vast estates once owned by the Shah's acolytes and conservatives insisting they should be left alone.

Officials agree that the birth rate should have been checked years ago and believe it will be years before it can.

Just three years ago, the government was offering incentives to families to produce children for the "jihad," or holy war, against Iraq, which has a population one-third Iran's.



François Mitterrand

# France to cut interest on loans to Africa

LA BAULE, France (R) — France is cutting to five per cent the interest it charges on loans to the middle-income states of black Africa, President Francois Mitterrand announced Wednesday.

"France unilaterally is limiting its five per cent the interest rates on all public loans to the intermediate countries of sub-Saharan Africa," Mitterrand told African leaders at a Franco-African summit.

Western countries decided to take a tough approach despite appeals from Romanian Prime

# Aid ban on Romania to last a few months

LONDON (R) — Western countries will withhold economic aid from Romania for several months until President Ion Iliescu's government provides evidence of its commitment to democracy, official British sources said Wednesday.

Romania had "dropped off the caravan" of East European countries evolving towards Western-style democracy as a result of Iliescu's brutal suppression of anti-government protests last week, one source said.

European Community (EC) foreign ministers Monday postponed the signing of a trade and cooperation agreement with Bucharest and decided not to invite Romanian officials to a meeting next month of 24 Western countries coordinating aid for Eastern Europe.

Although they did not say how long Romania would remain in quarantine, the sources expected it to last several months.

They said no conditions had been set for restoring the promise of aid, but that Western countries would want to see clear signs that the National Salvation Front government was committed to genuine democratic reform.

The decision is a serious blow to Iliescu's government which urgently needs economic aid to repair the ravages caused by the overthrown dictatorship of Nicolae Ceausescu.

Western countries decided to take a tough approach despite appeals from Romanian Prime

Minister Petre Roman.

Bucharest Radio said he had written to leading Western governments and organisations, including the EC, to assure them that "the new parliament and government will continue and will consolidate the process of Romania's democratisation with a view to ensuring the full observation of human rights."

Violence erupted in Bucharest last week after the dispersal by police of anti-government protesters from a central square provoked rioting.

Iliescu summoned coal miners to the capital to support him, and at least six people died after they beat up people in the streets and ransacked the offices of opposition parties.

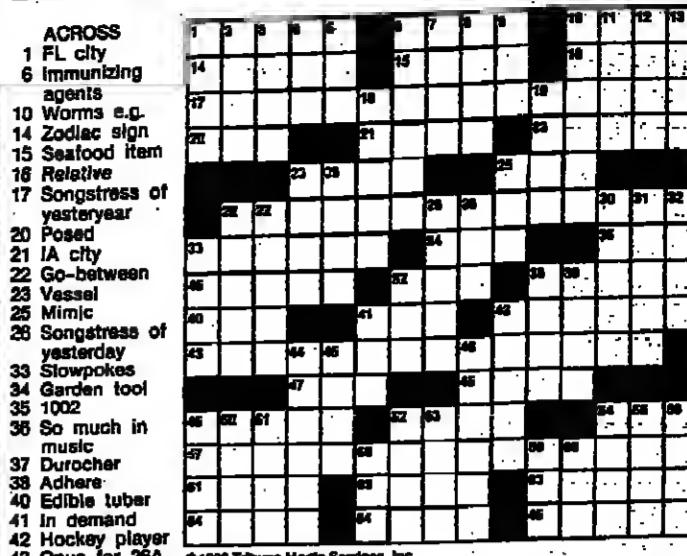
The United States, angered by the violence, ordered its ambassador in Bucharest, Alan Green, to boycott Iliescu's inauguration as president Wednesday after his landslide election victory last month.

Britain instructed its ambassador, Michael Atkinson, to attend, because it regards the elections in Romania as having been fair, although flawed.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We realise that sometimes the path towards true democracy is a stony one."

"We can only hope that when we speak out against the abuses we see, the Romanian government will sit up and take notice, and make sure that these things do not happen again."

# THE Daily Crossword by Frank R. Jackson



# Sports

## Uruguay, S. Korea play decisive game

UDINE (R) — Uruguay have to pull themselves out of a deep depression to stay in the World Cup beyond their final opening round match against South Korea Thursday.

"We have to score the goals we haven't got yet," said striker Rubin Sosa. "Now it's not enough to play well, we have to score."

Captain Enzo Fraccescoli added: "Against Korea, it will be like a final for us."

After a goalless draw against Spain and a 3-1 defeat by Belgium, Uruguay must beat the Koreans by a wide margin to go through to the second round.

But manager Oscar Tabarez's main task is to raise spirits among a deeply depressed squad.

"We made so many errors, we had so many lapses of attention on the field," he said. "But now I have to think only of beating Korea."

Tabarez said he would delay naming his team until shortly before the kick-off, but striker Carlos Aguirre said the manager has already made up his mind who would play.

"Everything is already decided and we know who is going to play," he said. "We're thinking only about winning, we have no alternative."

South Korea, beaten by both Belgium and Spain, are already virtually doomed to elimination.

## Dutch, Irish seek to break logjam

PALERMO (R) — The Dutch and Irish must go for broke Thursday to be sure of emerging from the Group F logjam with a place in the second round of the World Cup.

Both teams have sworn all-out attack in search of a win that would guarantee a berth in the last 16.

After a sequence of drawn games, Group F is perfectly poised with all four teams on two points apiece with identical goal differences.

Another draw would probably be enough to ensure progress — provided there is an outright result in the other group match between England and Egypt in Cagliari — but both camps have

promised a positive approach.

"You must go out to win, then you know you're through," said Dutch coach Leo Beenhakker, whose side have so far failed to live up to their billing as one of the pre-tournament favourites.

His Irish counterpart Jack Charlton also expected an open game.

"We might beat the Dutch, they might beat us but they'll come and have a real go at us and we'll have a go at them," he said.

The two teams met in the 1988 European championship when the Dutch needed a win to pip the Irish for a semifinal place. A disputed late goal by Wim Kieft settled it and sent the Dutch on the road to the title.

Syrian referee Jamal Al Sharif sent off midfielder Arnter in the 34th minute for going in with two feet on American striker Peter Vermes.

The incident was characteristic of a match littered with late tackles.

## Britain sees edge over Egypt team

Only a massive victory over Uruguay would give them any prospect of squeezing through from third place in Group E.

But coach Lee Hoe-Tak is realistic. "Although they lost against Belgium, we know that Uruguay are a strong team and it will be difficult for us to hold them," Lee said.

"But we're not giving up before the game," he noted.

Lee admitted his major problem against Spain was in midfield, where his players were unable to match the physical fitness and strength of their opponents.

He would not discuss any possible team changes. But Bryan Byung-Joo is likely to keep his place as the second striker alongside Choi Soon-Ho and Hwang Bo-Kwan, author of a spectacular goal against Spain, should remain in midfield.

South Korean pride, as well as Uruguayan, will be at stake Thursday and Lee hopes his team can at least match South Korea's best World Cup result — a 1-1 draw against Bulgaria in Mexico four years ago.

In seven games so far in three World Cup final series, the Koreans have lost six and drawn one. Their first win, even if it is not enough to get them into the second round, would be a notable consolation for Lee and his squad.

Victories are desperately needed in Group F where, after two matches, all four teams are stalemated on two points each with identical 1-1 goal differences.

If the final group matches between England and Egypt and the Netherlands and Ireland both end in draws with identical scores, organisers must draw lots to decide which teams go through to the last 16.

In the absence of Bryan Robson, England will probably choose either Neil Webb or Steve McMahoan in midfield alongside Paul Gascoigne and may consider selecting Steve Bull, a second division striker with Wolves, for his first full appearance of the finals.

Bull, who has scored 130 goals in three seasons, could ease out Chris Waddle and provide extra physical thrust and strength.

Striker Gary Lineker, scorer of England's goal against Ireland and top scorer in the 1986 finals, is expected to recover from a damaged toe to play.

The incident was characteristic of a match littered with late tackles.

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH: ♠ A 10 3  
♦ 10 6  
♥ 10 6 5  
♣ A 19 7 5

WEST: ♠ A 6  
♦ 9 5  
♥ K 0 8 7 3  
♣ 0 7 4 3 2

SOUTH: ♠ K Q J 9 7 5 4 2  
♦ 9 5  
♥ A 8  
♣ A 3

The bidding: South: West: North: East:  
♦ Pass: Pass: Dbl: Dbl:  
Pass: 5 V: 5 A: Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠...

The dozen of English bridge writers, and someone who could justifiably lay claim to being the greatest, is Terence Reese. We were fascinated by this hand he contributed to the bi-monthly *Bridge Today*.

The final contract of five spades is close to par for the hand. Note that five hearts will make except in the unlikely event that North hits upon the ace of clubs for his opening lead (or a diamond and South shifts to a club) and gives partner a ruff.

After the defense starts with two

rounds of hearts it might seem de-

clarer should make the contract.

Suppose East shifts to the king of clubs. Declarer wins and ruffs a club high, leads any trump but the deuce to the ten and ruffs another club, then crosses to the ace of spades, again preserving the two-spot, to ruff a third club, which establishes the long club. Declarer still has access to the table by using the magic two of trumps to the three as the entry, and South's diamond loser goes down on the good club.

Shifting to a diamond is no bet-

ter. Declarer wins and proceeds to establish the club, as above. And a ruff-shuff simply saves declarer a lot of work.

The winning defense is to return a trump at trick three. That deprives declarer of one of his dummy entries before it can be put to any use. South can still set up a long club, but there is no way to get to the table to have that winner. Declarer will have to concede a diamond for down one.

The final contract of five spades

is close to par for the hand. Note

that five hearts will make except in

the unlikely event that North hits

upon the ace of clubs for his open-

ing lead (or a diamond and South

shifts to a club) and gives partner a ruff.

After the defense starts with two

rounds of hearts it might seem de-

clarer should make the contract.

Suppose East shifts to the king of clubs. Declarer wins and ruffs a club high, leads any trump but the deuce to the ten and ruffs another club, then crosses to the ace of spades, again preserving the two-spot, to ruff a third club, which establishes the long club. Declarer still has access to the table by using the magic two of trumps to the three as the entry, and South's diamond loser goes down on the good club.

Shifting to a diamond is no bet-

ter. Declarer wins and proceeds to establish the club, as above. And a ruff-shuff simply saves declarer a lot of work.

The winning defense is to return a

trump at trick three. That deprives

declarer of one of his dummy entries

before it can be put to any use.

South can still set up a long club,

but there is no way to get to the table

to have that winner. Declarer will

have to concede a diamond for

down one.

The final contract of five spades

is close to par for the hand. Note

that five hearts will make except in

the unlikely event that North hits

upon the ace of clubs for his open-

ing lead (or a diamond and South

shifts to a club) and gives partner a ruff.

After the defense starts with two

rounds of hearts it might seem de-

clarer should make the contract.

Suppose East shifts to the king of clubs. Declarer wins and ruffs a club high, leads any trump but the deuce to the ten and ruffs another club, then crosses to the ace of spades, again preserving the two-spot, to ruff a third club, which establishes the long club. Declarer still has access to the table by using the magic two of trumps to the three as the entry, and South's diamond loser goes down on the good club.

Shifting to a diamond is no bet-

ter. Declarer wins and proceeds to establish the club, as above. And a ruff-shuff simply saves declarer a lot of work.

The winning defense is to return a

trump at trick three. That deprives

declarer of one of his dummy entries

before it can be put to any use.

South can still set up a long club,

but there is no way to get to the table

to have that winner. Declarer will

have to concede a diamond for

down one.

The final contract of five spades

is close to par for the hand. Note

that five hearts will make except in

the unlikely event that North hits

upon the ace of clubs for his open-

ing lead (or a diamond and South

shifts to a club) and gives partner a ruff.

After the defense starts with two

rounds of hearts it might seem de-

clarer should make the contract.

Suppose East shifts to the king of clubs. Declarer wins and ruffs a club high, leads any trump but the deuce to the ten and ruffs another club, then crosses to the ace of spades, again preserving the two-spot, to ruff a third club, which establishes the long club. Declarer still has access to the table by using the magic two of trumps to the three as the entry, and South's diamond loser goes down on the good club.

Shifting to a diamond is no bet-

ter. Declarer wins and proceeds to establish the club, as above. And a ruff-shuff simply saves declarer a lot of work.

The winning defense is to return a

trump at trick three. That deprives

declarer of one of his dummy entries

before it can be put to any use.

South can still set up a long club,

but there is no way to get to the table

to have that winner. Declarer will

have to concede a diamond for

down one.

The final contract of five spades

is close to par for the hand. Note

that five hearts will make except in

the unlikely event that North hits

upon the ace of clubs for his open-

ing lead (or a diamond and South

shifts to a club) and gives partner a ruff.

After the defense starts with two

rounds of hearts it might seem de-

clarer should make the contract.

Suppose East shifts to the king of clubs. Declarer wins and ruffs a club high, leads any trump but the deuce to the ten and ruffs another club, then crosses to the ace of spades, again preserving the two-spot, to ruff a third club, which establishes the long club. Declarer still has access to the table by using the magic two of trumps to the three as the entry, and South's diamond loser goes down on the good club.

Shifting to a diamond is no bet-

ter. Declarer wins and proceeds to establish the club, as above. And a ruff-shuff simply saves declarer a lot of work.

The winning defense is to return a

trump at trick three. That deprives

declarer of one of his dummy entries

before it can be put to any use.

South can still set up a long club,

but there is no way to get to the table

to have that winner. Declarer will

have to concede a diamond for

down one.

The final contract of five spades

is close to par for the hand. Note

that five hearts will make except in

the unlikely event that North hits

upon the ace of clubs for his open-

ing lead (or a diamond and South

shifts to a club) and gives partner a ruff.

After the defense starts with two

rounds of hearts it might seem de-

clarer should make the contract.

## Gorbachev says he may cease to be Communist Party chief

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Under fire from Communist hard-liners at a key party conference, reformist President Mikhail Gorbachev Wednesday raised the prospect that he might soon no longer lead their party.

Gorbachev, at the Russian Republic's Communist Party meeting, reacted to criticism by the largely anti-reform delegates of the direction the party has taken with him as general secretary.

"This doesn't have to do with me personally," Gorbachev said. "Tomorrow, or after 10 days, there may be a new general secretary or chairman of the party."

He did not say if he might resign or if he expected to be ousted from the party job. Giving up that position should not affect his five-year term as president of the Soviet Union.

The delegates at this week's meeting will form the majority of delegates at the national party congress opening on July 2, which is expected to make considerable changes in the party leadership.

The Russian Communists voted by an overwhelming majority Wednesday to condemn a legislative proposal that would weaken party influence in the army, KGB and government.

The conference also decided Wednesday to characterize their current meeting as a founding congress of a separate party for the vast Russian Republic.

The Russian Communist Party, which would remain within the framework of the national party of more than 18 million members, was absorbed by the central party 65 years ago.

Wednesday's vote on the party cells was a rebuff to Boris Yeltsin, who calls for reform on an even more radical scale than does Gorbachev.

Yeltsin, as the new president of the Russian Federation, heads the republic parliament that gave

Such a move would mark the first time a top Soviet official has sought to be free of the influence of the Communist Party, which until recently was the only legal party in the country.

"It is quite logical," Yeltsin told the Communist Party daily in an interview. "The transition to a multi-party system authorised me as chairman of the Supreme Soviet (Russian parliament) to defend the interests of all the people of Russia, both party members and non-party members, one party or five parties."

Yeltsin, a radical Communist widely considered the most popular Soviet politician, was elected to the Russian Federation presidency on May 30 and immediately launched plans to give the influential republic more control over its own affairs.

The Russian Federation accounts for 160 million of the Soviet Union's 280 million people and over half its Communist Party members.

Yeltsin also expressed disappointment with the current conference of Russian Communists in the Kremlin, saying the speeches on the first day, Tuesday, were too orthodox.

He told Pravda he had been thinking very seriously about suspending his Communist Party membership after 30 years.

"So that would mean for the period of the chairmanship or presidency to suspend membership in the Communist Party — not to leave the party but to suspend membership," he said.

"It is very difficult to take that decision," he added.

Yeltsin said he would not decide until after a crucial congress of the Soviet Communist Party ends in July.

Yeltsin told Pravda that the first day of that conference, which has now voted to form a Russian branch of the Soviet

Communist Party, had featured too much criticism of the leadership's policies of perestroika, or reform.

"It seems to me the discussion is going one-sidedly," he said.

The criticism of the Central Committee and politburo was to a certain extent justified, Yeltsin said.

"But one should not only blame the leadership of the party, since this is a democratic process," he added.

Meanwhile the parliament of Soviet Georgia, pressed by hunger strikers, convened a special session Wednesday to discuss legal steps for securing independence for the Caucasus republic, TASS reported.

On March 9, the Georgian Supreme Soviet condemned the republic's annexation by the Soviet Union and called for negotiations on independence, becoming the fourth of the 15 Soviet republics to begin a parliamentary struggle for

independence.

The Supreme Soviet convened a month ahead of schedule in response to demands from hunger-striking university students in the Georgian capital of Tbilisi, the Soviet News Agency said.

The dozens of students ended their hunger strikes last week after their demands on the session and its agenda were satisfied, said Valerian Khukhunashvili, a Moscow-based Georgian activist.

The session that opened Wednesday was to discuss bills on the transition to independence, elections, citizenship, economic independence and other measures.

Groups of pro-independence protesters gathered outside the government building in Tbilisi where the session was held, as they have repeatedly over past days to press their demands, said Tsvet Dzarselya of the National Independence Party.

Meanwhile Pravda said Wednesday Yeltsin may suspend his membership of the Communist Party to make himself a better leader.

He feels he may be more able to represent all Russians in his new post as president of the Russian Federation if he were outside the party, it added.

## Iliescu pledges to lead Romania to democracy

BUCHAREST (R) — President Ion Iliescu pledged Wednesday to keep Romania on the road to democracy and to end what he called the country's moral decay.

Speaking after his inauguration, in Bucharest's Atheneum Concert Hall, Iliescu was unapologetic about his government's role in dealing with street protests last week, although he admitted there had been excesses.

The United States boycotted the ceremony in protest at the government's use of miners who rampaged through Bucharest for nearly two days last week, beating up suspected government opponents.

Many diplomats attending the ceremony did not applaud Iliescu's speech, in which he called international criticism of the Romanian authorities irrational. "Accusations that the author-

ities would have brutally repressed a peaceful anti-government demonstration and suppressed the opposition are not only irrational, but also lack any basic in fact," the president said.

Iliescu said the government early last week had faced what looked like an anti-state rebellion and both internal and external attempts to destabilise the leadership.

Many people from Bucharest and outside, including miners, had responded to the government's appeal for help in halting riots and the ensuing efforts to restore order bad led to excesses.

"We unequivocally dissociate ourselves from all actions that went beyond a legal framework," said Iliescu, who several days ago appeared on television thanking thousands of miners for what they had done.

## W. Berlin asks to scrap anti-blockade reserves

WEST BERLIN (R) — No longer an island in a menacing Communist sea, West Berlin wants to scrap the huge and costly stockpile of emergency supplies kept for 40 years in case of another Soviet blockade.

Red Army forces cut off all land routes to West Berlin in 1949-49 to try to force the Western allies out of the enclave city. The allies broke the siege with a 10-month airlift and ordered a buildup of a permanent supply stockpile as a precaution.

In 1989, a democratic revolution toppled surrounding East Germany's Communist government, breached the Berlin Wall, launched the two Germanys to a new union and left West Berliners wondering about their government's mentality.

"When November 1989 came around and it became stunningly clear that Germany was on the way to unification, it became obvious that further blockades would be inconceivable," Gerhard Erbe, a senior city official, said in an interview.

Last month, the West Berlin Senate (government) asked West Germany to seek permission from the allies to abolish the 1.6-billion-mark (\$940-million) stockpile, funded entirely by West German taxpayers.

The Bonn government is considering the request. An allied military spokesman declined to comment.

The four World War II allied powers, the Soviet Union, United States, Britain and France, still run Berlin's security under a 1945 pact splitting up Nazi Germany.

What is now East Berlin and East Germany originated as the Soviet zone.

Alfred talks with the rapidly converging two Germans to cancel these residual powers are now under way.

With times so changed, Erbe said, there was little doubt that approval for dismantling the stockpile would eventually be given once time-consuming protocol hurdles were cleared.

"It's logical, isn't it?" said Erbe, the Senate Economics Ministry official who oversees the stockpile.

Stored in scores of warehouses and costing 200 million marks (\$118 million) a year to maintain and replenish, the stockpile is a treasure trove of life's necessities with special allowances for German tastes.

Two hundred million bottles of beer are squirrelled away among 350,000 tonnes of food reserves including frozen and canned meat, wheat, rice, dried and preserved fruit and vegetables, dried potatoes and sugar.

Then there are fuel depots, medicines and medical equipment, hygienic goods, basic communications materials like newsprint paper and kaleidoscopic variety of spare parts for such basics as rapid transit trains.

The food and equipment mountain dates from the famed Berlin airlift, in which U.S. and British forces flew in 1.5 million tonnes of supplies on 200,000 flights from the Western-occupied zone of Germany over a 10-month period.

## Somoza's family to return to Managua

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Former dictator Anastasio Somoza's family is free to return to Nicaragua under a recent amnesty declared by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, a government spokesman said.

A nice and nephew of Somoza, exiled since his overthrow in July 1979, said they were flying to Managua Saturday to become the first members of the old ruling family to return to Managua.

President spokesman Antonio Lacayo said the government "knew absolutely nothing" about the arrival of Luis and Julia Sevila Somoza. But, he said, "all Nicaraguans can come back and start a new life."

Mr. C. M. administration decreed an amnesty on May 10 authorising "broad and unconditional amnesty for all the political and related common crimes committed by Nicaraguan citizens up to the date of publication of the current law."

Previously amnesty for political offenders declared by the Sandinistas only covered crimes committed after the fall of Somoza, leaving his family out in the cold.

Luis Sevila Somoza, one of 20 family members living in exile in the United States, said he and his sister Julia planned to spend a week in Managua.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The incident occurred before the drill got under way, he said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The incident occurred before the drill got under way, he said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.

The cause of the explosions was not known, it said.

The Midway was to have participated in a 10-day joint U.S.-Japan drill off northern Japan starting Wednesday, an official at Japan's Defence Agency said.